



SITTING TARGETS

More than a million children will sit tests this week; is the examination system proving too great a hurdle for pupils? *Life & Times Page 1*



IN THE LIMELIGHT

Actress Stockard Channing muses on her British stage debut in John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation* *Life & Times Page 3*



HIKERS' HEAVEN

The first of two pieces on walking in France compares the ramblers' lot in Britain with that across the Channel *Life & Times Page 5*



LINEKER LEADING

Gary Lineker leads England into the European football championship. Don't miss your guide to the finals in Sweden Tomorrow with *The Times*

Leaders agree to disagree

Major fails to persuade Bush on Rio treaty

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, AT CAMP DAVID

JOHN Major and President Bush yesterday charted the Western course at the summit of world leaders in Rio at the end of this week, with the US and Britain preparing to sign the treaty on global warming but agreeing to disagree on the controversial treaty on plant and wildlife preservation, or biodiversity.

President Bush confirmed at the end of his talks with John Major at Camp David yesterday that America would not sign the biodiversity treaty at the Rio Earth summit. Mr Major's visit had been seen as the last hope of persuading the president to relent.

President Bush said at a press conference following their talks: "We don't have an open pocket book and we cannot enter into anything if we don't keep the commitment. The financial arrange-

ments are too open-ended for us."

He confirmed that America's biggest difficulty with the treaty was on the question of intellectual property rights — the proposal that companies in the developed world making use of the resources of poorer nations should have to pay them royalties on the products they developed.

Mr Bush was adamant that he had to consider "the working man and woman in this country" and the families who could be thrown out of work if America was asked to pay too big a bill for contributing to cleaning up the environment. He condemned those within his administration who had leaked a memo from William Reilly, the leader of the American delegation in Rio, proposing a compromise formula on the biodiversity treaty, saying that it was "very unhelpful" and that if he could find the leader he would sack him.

Fingers have been pointed in the United States at the office of vice-president Dan Quayle.

Mr Bush and Mr Major briefly put aside Rio to reflect on Anglo-American military exploits of the past. Welcoming Mr Major to Camp David, 70 miles northwest of Washington, Mr Bush noted that the prime minister's two-day visit coincided with the 48th anniversary of the second world war allied invasion of Europe.

"June 6, 1944, told the world that aggression will not stand, and so it's fitting that the prime minister and I meet on this historic anniversary of a new beginning in Europe to talk about our countries' stirring special relationship and the future challenges we face," he said. Mr Bush also praised US-British solidarity in the Gulf war, while Mr Major responded with warm words for American global leadership.

Mr Bush ruled out any further action against the pilots of the A10 aircraft responsible for the deaths of nine British soldiers in the Gulf. "There is no reason to go beyond what we have already done trying to account for this terrible tragedy."

Officials travelling with Mr Major said he was confident Mr Bush would play a positive role at the Earth summit despite his refusal to sign the biodiversity treaty.

Mr Major also discussed with Mr Bush the chances of progress in the long-stalled GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) talks, hoping for movement before the Western economic summit in Munich in July.

Mr Major, who had talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn on Friday, set out Britain's position in the European Community following Denmark's rejection of the Maastricht European Union Treaty in a referendum. He said he was confident the crisis could be settled in a way that kept Denmark firmly within the Community.

In an interview with *Time* magazine released yesterday Sunday Mr Major said American forces had kept the peace in Europe since the war, and it was important that they stay there.

Asked about the most serious threat to European security, Major said it was complacency. He told the magazine that "the threat is still there" that the former Soviet Union could become hostile, "and for that reason we think that security must continue to have a prime place in all our concerns."

Why Britain will sign biodiversity treaty, page 12
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Cup of solace: the Prince of Wales at Cowdray Park after his team lost yesterday

Royal book attacked by MPs

BY ALAN HAMILTON

MPs from both sides of House have criticised *The Sunday Times* for its publication yesterday of the first instalment of a book claiming that the Princess of Wales had in past suffered from the slimming disease bulimia and that she had staged suicide attempts.

In a letter to *The Times* today Sir Richard Luce, the former Conservative arts minister and now vice-chancellor of the University of Buckingham, says that the book goes beyond the pale of decency, and can only serve to undermine the monarchy.

Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, yesterday defended his decision to publish, and dismissed suggestions that the book's authenticity was questionable. Buckingham Palace maintained silence, except to reiterate that the Princess had not cooperated with the book.

Book criticised, page 2
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Havel may resign as Slovaks vote for split

BY ROGER BOYES AND GERARD DAVIES

PRESIDENT Havel of Czechoslovakia said yesterday he might step down as a result of a general election that boosted Slovak separatist parties bent on leaving the federation. President Havel asked Vaclav Klaus, the finance minister, to try to form a new government, but this may prove impossible.

The Czech people gave a firm mandate to Mr Klaus and his centre-right Civic Democratic party to continue their economic reforms. But Vladimir Meciar's independence-minded Movement for a Democratic Slovakia won a third of the vote in Slovakia, where other nationalist parties also did well.

The left bloc, including the former Communist party, gained more than 14 per cent of the vote. The intolerant far-right Republican party, which has racist support, won more than 6 per cent, while the Civic Movement — including Jiri Dienstbier, the foreign minister — looked unlikely to get a seat.

Mr Klaus said talks would begin immediately with Mr Meciar on the formation of a

government. But in Bratislava, the Slovak capital, Mr Meciar declared: "The (Czech and Slovak) republics will adopt their constitutions which will make the federal constitution cease to exist." He said Mr Havel's chances of re-election next month as federal president had become "minimal".

Official results showed Mr Klaus's right-wing Civic Democratic Party becoming the biggest party in parliament, taking 34 per cent of the vote in the Czech republic, which would give it 80 seats in the federal assembly. Mr Meciar's party looked set to win some 33 per cent of the vote in Slovakia with a few results still to come. The party also fell only just short of an outright majority in the Slovak National Council (regional parliament).

Mr Havel was due to stand for re-election after the parliamentary elections. But he said he may abandon these plans if he is not "given scope

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Gunmen hunted after policeman is shot dead

BY PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE last night sealed off a large section of north Yorkshire in their search for two gunmen, believed to be Irish republicans, who shot and killed a newly recruited special constable on routine patrol.

Glenn Goodman, 37, was sworn in to the North Yorkshire Special Constabulary only three weeks ago. He was married with a 10-month-old son. A regular constable on duty with him was also hit several times and was last night in a serious condition in intensive care at St James' hospital, Leeds. Two other officers — one a woman police constable — were also fired at in a separate incident shortly afterwards, but escaped uninjured.

The gunmen's car, a red Ford Sierra, was found abandoned and on fire in a wood near by and a search was launched by three northern forces assisted by officers from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch. George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorist branch, travelled from London to visit the scenes of the shootings and received a briefing from detectives.

The gunmen are believed to have escaped on foot. Roadblocks were set up between Selby and Tadcaster and a detailed search of the enclosed area was carried out all day yesterday and into the night.

John Giffard, north Yorkshire's assistant chief constable in charge of operations, said he was keeping an open mind on whether the gunmen were IRA and as yet there were no links with the explosion early yesterday at the Festival Hall on the South Bank in London.

Mr Giffard warned the public to keep clear if they sighted the gunmen but appealed for information to help police catch the men responsible for what he called "this most dreadful crime on unarmed police officers doing

their job. "I am appalled as a professional police officer that we have an officer who has lost his life doing his duty for the public. It is reprehensible that we have a criminal act like this to contend with. We will do all in our power to apprehend those responsible."

The special constable was on duty in a marked Astra patrol car with PC Alexander "Sandy" Kelly, 32. He is married with a daughter aged two and six months old son.

Shortly before 4am yesterday the officers stopped the Sierra on the westbound carriageway of the A64 York to Leeds road near Tadcaster for a routine check. As one officer approached the vehicle a man got out and fired shots at close range from what is believed to be a Kalashnikov semi-automatic rifle. Both policemen were hit several times, but one managed to make an emergency call for help as the Sierra drove away.

About 15 minutes later two other officers in a Peugeot 309 Panda car came across the gunmen's car in the village of Burton Salmon, a village 10 miles to the south on the edge of industrial west Yorkshire. As they closed down behind the Sierra stopped and an armed man jumped out, firing a number

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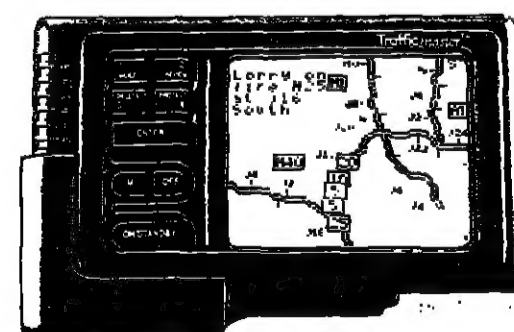
Policeman mourned, page 3



Churchill-Coleman: briefed on shootings

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Car thieves grab their loot by remote control

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THIEVES are using the technology of television remote controls to foil expensive car alarms. Home Office officials are testing the device, known as a "grabber", which may cost thieves as little as £100 to buy or make but which foils alarms on which British motorists have been spending a total of tens of millions of pounds.

Insurance companies, paying out £500 million a year for car crime, are worried about schemes which offer discounts to drivers who have their cars fitted with alarms because they believe the equipment may not be an effective deterrent. Government campaigns persuading motorists to fit alarms may also have to be halted in favour of a switch to engine immobilisers if officials decide that the threat from grabbers is serious enough. Sir Anthony Grant, MP for

Cambridge South West and president of the Guild of Experienced Motorists, is asking Kenneth Clarke, the Home Secretary, to ban grabbers.

One alarm manufacturer has been demonstrating the grabber at seminars around Britain to show how quickly it can break through conventional electronic alarm systems. The grabber taps into technology used in handsets which read the radio frequency on which television or video recorders broadcast to remote controllers. Car central locking and alarm systems which use remote control broadcast on frequencies recommended by the trade and industry department.

The thief uses the device when motorists lock their cars with a remote handset. The grabber reads the frequency broadcast between the handset and the car. This allows the thief to wait until the motorist has gone before playing back the recording to the car, opening

the doors and over-riding the alarm. The grabber can also read the car's internal electronics, running through the 16,000 to 20,000 combinations controlling the central locking and alarm at the rate of ten a second to discover the code which will open the car. An insurance company's investigation file on the dangers of the grabber has been passed to the Home Office.

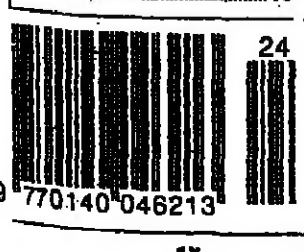
The Wipac Group, alarm specialists based in Buckingham, is countering the grabber with a new alarm system which increases the number of frequency combinations to 10 billion.

Manufacturers say that grabbers, like skeleton keys which are widely advertised, are sold only to the trade. Garages use them to help motorists who have locked themselves out of their cars. But concern is growing that thieves masquerading as garage proprietors could easily obtain security-breaking equipment.

Does it work on the wheel-clamp?



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Politicians condemn disclosure of princess's alleged suicide attempts

Royal book serial provokes distaste

BY ALAN HAMILTON

PUBLIC figures yesterday expressed criticism and distaste at the publication by *The Sunday Times* of the first extract of a book about the Princess of Wales, in which she is painted as living in a deeply unhappy marriage.

Diana: Her True Story, by Andrew Morton, alleges that the princess has had the nervous disease bulimia and has made several half-hearted suicide attempts.

Lord St John of Fawsley, a prominent monarchist, said on BBC radio: "A warning needs to be uttered that our institutions are fragile, and if we do not respect them, and if we do not exercise some self-restraint about them, we shall destroy them and we shall all be the sufferers."

Lord St John played down suggestions that the disclosures created a constitutional crisis, pointing out that they related to events of a decade ago.

Clare Short, Labour MP for Birmingham Ladywood, also found the serialisation distasteful. "Quite a lot of women suffer from post-natal depression, and none of them should expect to have that splashed over all the pages of the newspapers. It's outrageous."

Peter Mandelson, Labour MP for Hartlepool, said the scurrilous book had shown there were no longer any boundaries between fact and fiction in royal reporting.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, Tory MP for Perth and Kinross, said that Mr Morton should be put in the Tower. He asked of Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*: "Why does he want to destroy somebody else's marriage and the great institutions of the state?"

After a wave of unprecedented advance publicity, *The Sunday Times* finally published its first extract from the book yesterday, with the central question of the



Hot pursuit: the Prince of Wales, centre, captain of the Tramontana polo team, in the thick of it yesterday at Cowdray Park

princess's own involvement in the plot still clouded.

The first instalment, somewhat thin gruel compared with the rich taste of the warm-up teasers, paints a picture of a deeply unhappy marriage. The princess is said to have suffered from the nervous disease bulimia, a fact already widely reported if not absolutely confirmed.

She is also said to have made, ten years ago, several apparent attempts at suicide, none of them causing lasting harm and all presented as cries for attention. The book is largely composed of quotes and reported speech from unnamed friends, although certain key passages of yesterday's instalment are sourced to two close associates of the princess, her former flatmate, Carolyn

Bartholomew, and the businessman James Gilbey.

Buckingham Palace sources, as they have done unflinchingly for the past month, continued yesterday to insist that the princess had not co-operated in any way whatsoever with the book.

Mr Neil said that it would have been impossible for the princess to be unaware of what kind of book was being prepared, yet she made no attempt to stop it or to prevent her friends and family talking on the record to the author.

Mr Neil said that, when first offered the manuscript for serialisation, he had been deeply sceptical. Since then his newspaper had made its own extensive enquiries, if only to guard against the dangers of legal action, and had shown relevant extracts

to the named sources, who verified their accuracy. The book was much better sourced than many a political story that relied entirely on unnamed lobby informants.

The central issue is that the Spencer family allowed a number of previously unseen family photographs to be used in the book. If Diana thought it was just going to be a pretty picture book, her friends would soon have told her otherwise when they were interviewed about her bulimia and her half-hearted suicide attempts, two things which often go together. No one would hand over the family album unless they knew exactly what it was going to be used for.

Photograph, page 1
Forms of redress, page 14

The world revels in a palace tale

France: "Diana, the crisis," announced *Le Journal du Dimanche*, the only national Sunday newspaper, which, on the eve of a four-day state visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, detailed reports of the five alleged suicide attempts and gave an analysis, which concluded that "it is Diana who rejects her husband's affection".

Italy: The sober and authoritative *Corriere della Sera* told its readers in a front page headline that "the drama of Diana shatters the English" and concluded that the royal family is facing "its gravest crisis since the days of Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson". Italy's other top national daily, *La Repubblica*, led a full inside page with the headline: "Lady Diana tried to die five times".

Australia: Widespread coverage, with one headline announcing "Diana's betrayal" and most using the story to support the recent denouncement of the irrelevant role of the royal family in Australia by Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister.

South Africa: Not front-page news. The mass-circulation Johannesburg *Sunday Times* reported that its London namesake had taken the "unusual step" of holding back Saturday night street sales until midnight to frustrate its rivals.

America: General disinterest, although *People* magazine is expected to publish an extract from the book this week.



The princess leaving Highgrove yesterday for Kensington Palace, her regular weekend home

Aggressive prince has a good game

BY NICHOLAS WATT

THE Prince of Wales tore around Cowdray Park's polo pitch yesterday playing a characteristically aggressive game in a friendly match against a world class team. The press's prying attention to the state of his marriage seemed the least of his worries as he skillfully fought off opponents who dared to tackle him.

His team, Tramontana, were beaten 10-7 by Cowdray Park in the Argentine Ambassador's Cup. But Prince Charles's opponents were quick to praise his performance. Paul Withers, captain of the Cowdray Park team, said: "He played pretty well and was on good form. He didn't play any differently and looked good on his team's blisteringly fast ponies. His team was strong for the first four chukkas but after that they relaxed a bit."

After the game, a tanned prince joked and laughed with his team mates and opponents at the presentation by the Argentinean Ambassador, Mario Campora.

Dressed in a white and blue outfit he enthusiastically clapped the winners and had a generous swig of champagne from the winners' cup.

The Princess of Wales did not turn up at the match although that was little surprise to the Cowdray Park faithful.

Derek Stoneham said: "I have only seen Diana once at Cowdray and that was in 1981. Today she missed her favourite polo commentator, Terry Hanlon. She evidently finds him very amusing and thinks he puts life into the game."

Had the prince's game been affected by the speculation on his marriage? Mr Stoneham said: "He played well. A lot of guys who come out and play have had rows with their wives and take their aggression out on the game."

The musketeer and pikeman have been adapted freely from a book of prints called *Exercise of Arms* by the engraver, Jacob de Champs. The Royal Mail usually produces eight special stamp issues a year.

The *Times* is sponsoring an exhibition of arms and armour similar to those shown in the stamps, drawn from the collections of the Royal Armouries, England's oldest museum.

The display, the first travelling exhibition the armouries has mounted in Britain, opened on Saturday at the Whitefriars Museum, Coventry, having already attracted record crowds in Hull. It will be in Coventry until July 26, and will later visit Nottingham, Worcester, and Cirencester.

Stamps to mark civil war

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE Royal Mail is commemorating the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the civil war in a series of four special stamps that will be on sale from June 16.

The stamps highlight the first big conflict of the war, the indecisive battle of Edgehill, which was fought near Banbury in Oxfordshire on October 23, 1642. Designed by a freelance illustrator, Jeremy Sancha, the stamps show soldiers from the two opposing English armies in their uniforms and armour. The detailed backgrounds show the troops gathering for battle.

Mr Sancha created the stamps from linocut designs that he developed from 17th century prints and stained glass windows depicting soldiers. Just before the nation

slipped into war, wealthy and ostentatious squires who had raised forces had portraits produced of themselves in uniform.

The 24p stamp shows a pikeman, the 28p a musketeer in front of a manor house, and the 39p stamp features a standard bearer with royalist and parliamentarian soldiers on horseback duelling in the background. Presentation packs holding a full set of stamps and background information are available at £1.55 from the British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, EH3 0HN.

The standard bearer and drummer figures in Mr Sancha's designs are based on a stained glass window from Barnston chapel in Farndon church, Cheshire.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man tells of kidnap ordeal in Nigeria

A British food processing plant manager has spoken about his six-day ordeal at the hands of kidnappers in Nigeria, who threatened to gouge out his eyes and throw him to gorillas. John Hillman held a press conference in Manchester on Saturday after arriving in Britain for a reunion with his family. He had travelled to Nigeria on behalf of Darrel Purchase, a business associate, to negotiate a deal but was seized by five men and held hostage in a flat. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of £250,000.

"This man brought out a machete and started to thump me with it. Another threatened me with a shotgun," he said. "One had a flick-knife and another said he would take my eyes out." Asked whether he thought the gang would have killed him, he replied: "I don't know how they could have avoided it. They were going to throw me to the gorillas, as they put it."

Mr Hillman's captivity ended on Wednesday when Nigerian police discovered the kidnappers' flat in a town 200 miles from Lagos, the capital. Mr Hillman's daughter Claire, 18, helped to save his life by negotiating with the kidnappers over the telephone from the family home in Appley Bridge, near Wigan, Greater Manchester, while Nigerian police closed in. British police sat next to Claire, monitoring the phone conversations. "I could sense Claire was sitting next to someone. I don't think my captors were very bright," Mr Hillman said.

Letters, page 15

Gould cites race as factor in poll defeat

Labour's half-hearted approach to racism in the election campaign was a potent factor in its defeat, Bryan Gould, shadow environment secretary, says today. Launching another stage of his campaign for the party leadership, Mr Gould says the party must lead an assault on racism and discrimination in Britain. The Labour party also needs to eradicate racism from its own organisation and policy-making structures, he says. He points out that John Major had made efforts during the campaign to win the votes of black and ethnic minority voters by referring to his multicultural roots in Brixton.

"He cannot be caricatured as an old-style Tory saloon bar racist," Mr Gould says in a report published today. "Labour can no longer take black and ethnic minority voters for granted." On the other hand the Tories were also effective at stirring racist feelings by attacking and misrepresenting Labour's policy on immigration and asylum. "We must vigorously expose the gap between the new Tory rhetoric and old Tory reality of racism and discrimination," Mr Gould says. "Our vision of a better Britain must wholly embrace the needs of Britain's black, Asian and ethnic minority citizens."

Lords to hear tax case

A tax battle over concessionary fees for staff at Malvern College will go before seven law lords presided over by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor today in a hearing which will have far-reaching implications for the future interpretation of laws. The case will determine whether courts should have recourse to Hansard, the record of parliamentary debates, when they try to decide what ministers meant when statutes were formulated. Much legal time is spent trying to work out the meaning of statutes, with lawyers prevented by the exclusionary rule dating from the 18th century from being able to draw inferences from ministers' stated intentions. The hearing will have to determine whether the rule should still stand and law lords are known to be divided over the issue. As well as Lord Mackay, the law lords involved in the rare line-up are Lords Bridge, Ackner, Browne-Wilkinson, Slynn, Oliver and Griffiths. The long-running tax case, *Pepper v Hart*, was originally brought in 1984.

Dentists fight back

The British Dental Association accused Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, yesterday of showing herself woefully ignorant of their finances. The BDA, which is to ballot members on industrial action over government plans to cut dentists' income by 7 per cent, said that dentists, already hit by the plans for the fees cut, had been further annoyed by figures for their net income quoted on Saturday by Mrs Bottomley. She had said: "I think most people would think that £47,000 in expenses and £40,000 in income - £10,000 more than an MP earns, for example - is a fair and sensible way through." The BDA said that Mrs Bottomley's figures were wrong. The association forecast that net income for 1992-3 would, on average, be £30,360 - well below the £35,815 set by the pay review body. Mr Michael Watson, head of the BDA's practitioner services, said: "Mrs Bottomley has shown herself to be woefully ignorant of the facts of dental finance."

Flood ruins cottage

Mopping-up operations continued yesterday after a canal broke its banks, flooding a cottage to a depth of 5ft. After a 10ft hole appeared in the banks of the Lancaster Canal near Forton, Lancashire, releasing up to a million gallons of water, it was feared at first that Dorothy Dickson, 85, had drowned. Firemen and a team from British Waterways went to the rescue, pumping out the property and damming the gap, before they discovered that Mrs Dickson was at her sister's home in nearby Cockerham, where she is recovering from an illness. Boats on the canal were left high and dry and damage has been estimated at thousands of pounds in what a waterways spokesman described as an "unusual and rare incident".

Nine hurt in crash

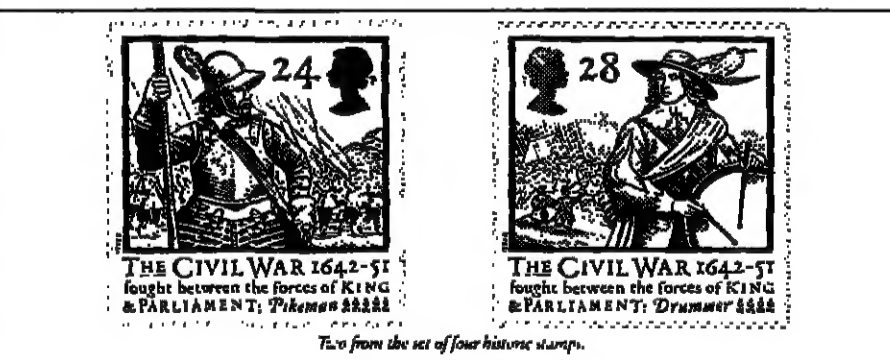
Nine people were taken to hospital yesterday after their minibus fell more than 30ft down an embankment, crashing through a thicket of trees on the eastbound carriageway of the M4 motorway in Wiltshire. All three emergency services attended the accident, which happened just after the vehicle had joined the motorway at junction 16 near Swindon. Seven of those taken to the Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon had minor injuries. The conditions of the other two injured people was not known. Firemen using cutting equipment released one person who was trapped. A spokesman for the fire brigade said eight of the passengers were free of the wreckage by the time they arrived at the scene.

Sammy Davis tribute

A charity tribute show to Sammy Davis junior, attended by Princess Alexandra, is expected to raise £50,000 for cancer research. The show's cast will include Billy Eckstine, Sammy Cahn, Georgia Brown, Marvin Hamlisch and Elaine Paige. The *Mr Wonderful* tribute to the legendary singer-and-dancer is to be staged next Sunday at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. During a break in rehearsals, Barry Mison, the show's producer, said: "He was one of the greatest stars show business has ever produced. So many people have wanted to give their time. It is going to be a great show." All the performers are giving their time free for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Another tribute to Sammy Davis is being staged in London this summer, starring Liza Minnelli.

Prisoner still on run

Police were still hunting yesterday for the last of three prisoners who escaped from the north wing at Highpoint Prison, Stradishall, Suffolk, on Saturday afternoon. Two were recaptured at Great Bradley, near Newmarket. Police said that Mohammed Ishaq, 31, who comes from the London area, was still at large. He was born in Pakistan and was serving a five-year sentence, but police said he was not considered dangerous. A spokesman warned the public not to approach him but to contact their nearest police station if he was spotted.

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Bishop Daly meets Sinn Fein to press for IRA ceasefire

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

EDWARD Daly, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, said yesterday that he has been holding talks with Sinn Fein to try to end the IRA's campaign of violence.

He has had meetings at his home in Derry on two occasions with two leading members of Sinn Fein, Martin McGuinness and Mitchell McLaughlin. His disclosure, which comes after recent discussions between Sinn Fein and senior Presbyterian churchmen in Northern Ireland, coincided with signs that the inter-party talks on the future of the province might at last be making progress.

Dr Daly made public his contacts with Sinn Fein on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme. In setting out his aims, he hinted that sooner or later the British government might have to consider talking to Sinn Fein. He said: "I think there is an openness amongst people to talk, and I think that literally everyone should talk to everyone."

Dr Daly said that in the past he had discussed with Sinn Fein problems over funerals, but the talks this time were about the violence. He

wanted to influence the party to persuade the IRA to bring it to an end.

He suggested that the meetings, reflected a wider feeling that there was an opportunity for change. "There have been a lot of things happening," he said. "I correspond with a lot of people in prison for example, and I've been getting a lot of positive things coming out... from young men who are facing long sentences ahead of them, coming to the realisation that military means are not the means to solve our problems here."

His comments follow the



Daly: "Everyone should talk to everyone"

publication last week in the Belfast *Irish News* of an open letter to the IRA Army Council apparently from an inmate at Crumlin Road prison who described himself as, until recently, an active IRA volunteer. He drew attention to what he saw as the surprising and unbroken determination of Britain to remain in Northern Ireland, the impossibility of forcing a withdrawal, and increasing war weariness among republicans. He called on the IRA to declare a permanent ceasefire in return for a pledge that British troops would be confined to barracks and for an amnesty for paramilitary prisoners.

Dr Daly said he hoped that his talks with Sinn Fein, which had been "useful and constructive", would continue. Sinn Fein also said it wished them to continue. The party acknowledged that the process had begun with Dr Jack Weir and Dr Godfrey Brown, two former Presbyterian moderators, who had "broken the ice" earlier this year. The party repeated its willingness to join discussions and said it hoped the courage shown by the churchmen would be matched by others, seeking an "honourable end to the conflict".

It is difficult to know whether this signals a serious shift in the position of Sinn Fein and the IRA, or an attempt to exploit what it views as a sign of weakness in the established consensus ranged against it. Until now the movement has insisted that it will accept nothing short of a British withdrawal. However, some observers detect an increasing desperation among some republicans to find a way of ending the violence while saving face.

Yesterday Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that Dr Daly's talks were a matter for church leaders. Dr John Dunlop, the new Presbyterian moderator in Ireland, said that he did not rule out talking to Sinn Fein. "All those talking to Sinn Fein must be encouraged," he said. "You cannot shoot your way to the conference table. The people who are using the guns are creating the barriers."

There were also signs yesterday that some progress is being made in the inter-party talks at Stormont. Sources among those taking in the process confirmed that the negotiations are likely to continue throughout this week.

One proposal said to be under discussion amounts to a concession by the Social Democratic and Labour Party on its plan that Northern Ireland be governed through a six-member commission with one member each appointed by Dublin, London and Brussels and three from Northern Ireland. The SDLP is now said to be offering unionists a similar plan, but with all six commissioners appointed from the province.

He ordered the women and children at the sale to go inside the building for safety and followed Smith as he tried to walk away, before calling his police colleagues for help. Smith was apprehended shortly afterwards. PC Richardson said he was proud of his son.

Anti-terrorist squad examines Yorkshire shooting and London bombing



Proud father: Glenn Goodman and his son Thomas, who was born earlier this year. Below, the wreck of the burnt-out Ford Sierra that was left by the fleeing gunmen at Burton Salmon



Police mourn 'a fine young man'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

GLENN Goodman, who was killed yesterday by gunmen near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, while on a routine patrol, had joined the special constabulary to gain experience before applying to become a regular officer.

David Burke, chief constable of North Yorkshire, said that Mr Goodman, aged 32, had been due to have an interview with the Cleveland force later this month. "I feel terribly sad at the loss of this fine young man," he said. "He had been with us only a short time but displayed the finest characteristics required for the service."

Mr Goodman was made redundant four months ago from his job as a civilian driver at RAF Church Fenton near his family home at Sherburn-in-Elmet, a few miles from the scene of his shooting. He then found work as a driver/storeman with the Home Office at Kippax near Leeds. He was sworn in as a special only three weeks ago.

His father, Brian, and brother, Steve, are both RAF physical training instructors, and his sister is married to

an American serviceman and lives in the United States.

Mr Goodman met his wife, Fiona, aged 32, a former RAF nurse, when they both worked at RAF Halton. They were married seven years ago and have one child, Thomas, who was born earlier this year.

Michael Holdsworth, a family friend, said: "Glenn and Fiona had been trying for a baby for a long time."

Thomas was their life, he was all they both wanted. Their marriage was made complete by the child. He said Mr Goodman had been sickened by the actions of the IRA.

North Yorkshire police has 387 special constables. Paul Buffey, aged 49, a training manager with a York chemicals firm and one of the dead officer's colleagues, said the specials were greatly saddened by the shooting but it

would not diminish their resolve.

Mr Buffey had signed up six years ago "to give something back to the community". The specials receive only travelling expenses for their work, which can often include late night patrols such as the one Mr Goodman was on. "You never expect to be in the front line like the regulars, but something like this brings it home to you," he said.

Part-timers face full-time risks

SPECIAL constables, created over 160 years ago, share almost all the responsibilities of their professional colleagues but are not paid a salary (Ray Clancy writes).

Sometimes derided by their colleagues as "hobby bobbies", they are regarded by the government and chief constables as playing a vital role in improving public relations.

Specials have the same powers of arrest as regular constables and are used extensively to police events

such as football matches, carnivals and race meetings. Increasingly, thanks to improved training, they are going out on the beat and encountering new dangers.

Specials work an average of six hours a week on top of their main job. Their uniform is provided free and they receive expenses such as travelling costs. They are subject to the same pension regulations as regulars and, if they are killed in the course of duty, a pension is paid to dependants. Glenn Good-

man, who became a special just eight months ago, represented the new era of volunteers who are more involved in day to day policing than ever before.

Last year, the government launched a £1.5 million recruitment drive to increase the number of specials from 15,000 to 25,000 by the end of 1993.

The Police Federation has voiced fears that using non-paid volunteers was an attempt by the government to cut the cost of policing.

Charity show defies bombers

Police were last night checking possible links between the murder of a special policeman and a bombing at the Festival Hall, Ray Clancy and Paul Wilkinson report

TERRORISTS who planted a bomb that exploded outside London's Festival Hall early yesterday were condemned last night by the organisers of a charity event, which went ahead despite the explosion.

Hundreds of schoolchildren who had spent months rehearsing for the Music for Life concert organised by the Aids charity Crusaid were disappointed when the morning performance of *Noyes Fludde* was cancelled because forensic experts were sifting through the debris left by the bomb. Some of the children took part in another performance in the afternoon.

Richard Mantle, the event's artistic director, said that it had been important to go ahead with the concert. "We have to show these people that they can't stop the goodwill of the general public. We were here to raise money for a very important charity, and were not going to let that be scuppered," he said.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said that the small device, hidden in a pile of refuse sacks, exploded at 12.40am by a wall of the hall opposite Hungerford railway bridge. No one was injured.

He appealed for witnesses who may have seen someone plant the device to call the confidential terrorist hotline on 0800-789 321.

No one had claimed responsibility by late last night. Mr Churchill-Coleman was working with police in North Yorkshire after two police officers were shot when they stopped a car on routine patrol near Leeds three hours after the London explosion. One of the officers, a special constable, died in hospital.

The explosion in London shattered plate glass frontages of studios built under the bridge next to the Royal Festival Hall and the area was sealed off.

Geoff Henning, Crusaid director, said that two concerts were rescheduled for the afternoon and one was cancelled. He said that the disruption meant that event would probably now raise less than the expected £75,000 to £100,000.

Special killed, page 1

Girl, 19, stabbed to death

BY JENNY KNIGHT

THE body of a half-naked young woman who had been stabbed repeatedly was found on a path opposite a cemetery yesterday. A murder incident room was set up at Farnborough, Hampshire, while detectives led by Det Supt Ray Piper scoured the cemetery for clues.

The body of Katie Rackliff, 19, who lived with her parents in Hawley, Surrey, was found on the path by four schoolboys returning from a morning walk after a night camping in the back garden at the home of Toby Howe, 14. The boys heard a scream during the night but thought it was other youngsters larking about.

A police spokesman said that the teenager had gone to Ragamuffins nightclub with a girlfriend on Saturday night. Her movements after leaving the nightclub are unknown. "We are anxious to hear from anyone who saw her at Ragamuffins or who saw her leave," the spokesman added.

The four boys saw the body as they returned to their tent in High View Road. Toby's mother, Claire Howe, said: "Toby is in deep shock. They were all very quiet when they came back and then they just sank deeper into their misery. We phoned the parents of Toby's friends and the boy went home immediately."

Detectives were also looking for a green Opel Rekord car, registration number NWL 53W, which was stolen from Station Road, 150 yards from the spot where the body was found.

Mr Piper said: "The girl had been stabbed in a frantic, vicious and sadistic way."

Rapist held over killing of barmaid

BY RAY CLANCY

A CONVICTED rapist was today being questioned by police in connection with the murder of a barmaid after a boy scout found him sleeping rough under a scout hut in Southampton.

Malcolm Smith, 40, had been on the run for eight days after failing to return to Verne prison, Dorset, after a routine one-week leave. Detectives are interviewing him about the death of Jayne Harvell, 26, found battered to death in her flat in Bournemouth a week ago.

Police had given a warning that Smith was violent and dangerous and advised the public not to approach him. He was arrested after Matthew Richardson, 9, spotted him under a scout hut on the Millbrook estate.

The cub scout, who was playing with his brother and a friend, ran to tell his father, a policeman and scout leader, who was organising a jumble sale, that a tramp was sleeping on a dirty blanket under the hut.

Smith was unkempt, naked from the waist up and was wearing blue socks and no shoes. "I looked underneath the hut and saw bedding, a lilo and other items. And as I stood up I saw a man standing by the gate, and I immediately recognised him as Smith," PC Adrian Richardson said.

He ordered the women and children at the sale to go inside the building for safety and followed Smith as he tried to walk away, before calling his police colleagues for help. Smith was apprehended shortly afterwards. PC Richardson said he was proud of his son.

Falklands to fete heroine Thatcher

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher leaves for the Falkland Islands later this week, where she will be the principal guest for the celebrations on June 14 to mark the 10th anniversary of the end of the conflict with Argentina.

Ever since the islands were liberated, the 2,050 inhabitants of the South Atlantic dependency have regarded the former prime minister, who was made a life peer in the dissolution honours list, as their saviour from Argentine rule.

The islanders remain amazed that the prime minister whose steadfastness helped to drive the Argentines off the islands was herself driven out of office by her own party.

Mrs Thatcher will be feted at a banquet for 250 people on Saturday, the eve of Liberation Day, when Britain accepted the Argentine surrender.

On the day itself there will be a church service and a fly-past by the Phantom jets

which defend the islands. Other guests from Britain for will include Sir Rex Hunt, who was governor when Argentina invaded on April 2, 1982. Major General Sir Jeremy Moore, commander of the British forces during the conflict, General Sir Peter de la Billière, a former military commissioner in the Falklands, and Major General Michael Rose, who led SAS operations in the islands.

Captain Christopher Wreford-Brown, the commander of HMS *Conqueror*, which sank the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano*, has also been invited.

The Foreign Office is not planning to celebrate the anniversary although it will be represented by William Fullerton, the governor. Archie Hamilton, minister for the armed forces, and Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, chief of defence staff, will represent the Ministry of Defence.

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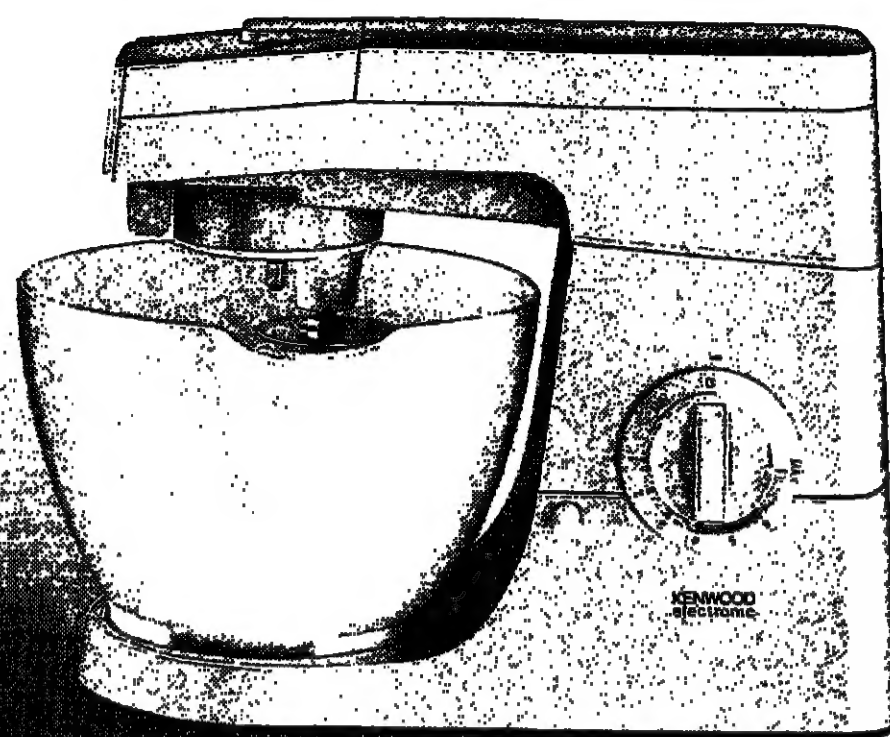
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University
urged to
opt out of
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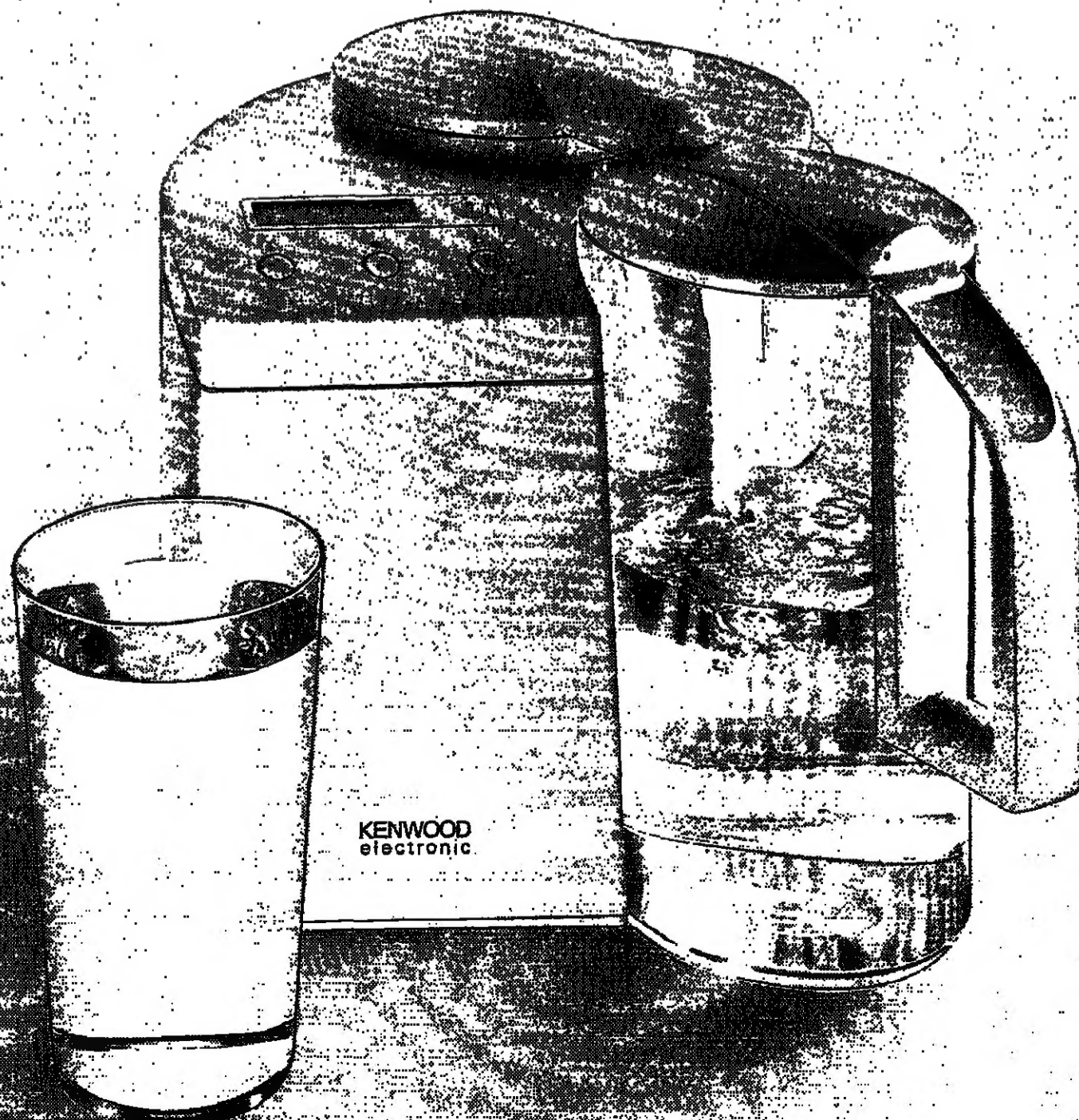
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Universities urged to opt out of new councils

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

UNIVERSITIES are giving a cool reception to a think-tank report urging them to opt out of the new higher education councils and seek funding direct from the government based on the number of students they recruit.

In a paper published today, the right-wing Adam Smith Institute calls for legislation "to turn a centrally directed system into one which responds to its customers" and allow universities to follow schools into the grant-maintained sector. Newer technological universities, former polytechnics and business schools are encouraged to use students as travelling salesmen, speaking to pupils in their final year at school.

The paper, intended to influence the 1993-4 parliament, also floats the idea of a voucher system with funds allocated to students who would pay them to the institutions of their choice. It says: "The supposition is that the opted out institutions would be more innovative and more inclined to eliminate wastage, and that they would find it easier to teach students at a lower funding level per head than those still in the established system."

Diana Warwick, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said that the report's arguments were fundamentally flawed. "The consumer-led higher education system is already here, autonomous universities are already here, the funding councils have already moved from a centrally planned to a

contractual system. Paradoxically, the institute's proposals would give more planning power to the Treasury."

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said that universities were already rewarded for attracting students to courses at competitive prices. "The proposal to re-link research funding to student numbers would be a step into the past," a spokesman said.

The proposals represent a head-on challenge to the new financial structure to be introduced next year, when the Universities Funding Council and Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council will be replaced by three Higher Education Funding Councils for England, Scotland and Wales.

□ The National Association of Head Teachers, which represents 33,000 heads and deputy heads, has urged the education department to bring forward its review of the local management of schools policy by two years. In a letter to John Patten, the education secretary, the association called for a rethink of the way in which teachers' salaries are paid.

David Hart, general secretary, said: "Funding teachers' salaries on an average basis, but requiring they be paid on a real basis, is the greatest contributory factor towards deteriorating pupil/teacher ratios, larger classes and, worst of all, teacher redundancies."

□ More than a million pupils in Britain's schools will today sit national curriculum tests, GCSEs and A-levels. Nearly half a million 14-year-olds will face the first round of national tests for their age-group, which are not yet compulsory. More than 80 per cent of state schools have entered their pupils for the science tests, which begin this morning at 9.30, to be followed by mathematics examinations tomorrow. The written tests will take six hours.

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LRT section, page 7



Hart: urging a rethink on teachers' salaries



Trail of destruction: Bryn Parry-Jones and John Williams work to protect a footpath above Llyn Dinas in Snowdonia, which is paying the price of the new A55

Parks search for popular path to preservation

This green and pleasant land is being increasingly trampled underfoot by hordes of well-meaning but heavy-booted pilgrims, Tim Jones reports

NATIONAL park authorities are using helicopters and employing building techniques pioneered by the Romans in their efforts to prevent some of the most beautiful areas of England and Wales being trampled underfoot.

From the great peaks of the Lake District to the Norfolk Broads, the 11 national parks are in danger of being loved to death by the millions of people who visit them each year. No one really knows how many visitors the parks attract; the 94 million cited by officials is based on visitor-days, so a family of four on a week's holiday would account for 28 days.

With villages virtually besieged, paths eroded and habitats threatened, some authorities are considering ways to make it harder for people to reach sensitive areas. There will also be more pressure on the government to increase its grant of £20 million to cover escalating costs of repair and maintenance. Roland Smith of the Peak National Park, which has more

than 22 million visits each year, said: "Between them, the parks receive only slightly more in government aid than the Royal Opera House. There is no entry fee to enter the parks and no comparison in the number of people involved."

Michael Dower, director-general of the Countryside Commission, said that the grant had to be increased by £10 million in real terms over the next five years.

Even Northumberland, the most isolated park, which claims only a million visitors, is experiencing severe erosion on its stretch of the Pennine Way. Last week, a helicopter was used to transport heavy flagstones to protect badly eroded sections.

The pressures are far greater in the Lake District. The 40 million who visit each year on foot have

been joined by growing numbers of mountain-bikers. A plan to restrict boat speeds on Windermere, imposing the same tranquility enjoyed on the other lakes, is leading towards an acrimonious public enquiry with private and company boat owners.

In the North York Moors, where the paths on the Cleveland Way have had to be reinforced, charity groups have been asked not to organise sponsored walks in sensitive areas. Some of the most popular paths have been widened up to 45 yards in places.

In the Yorkshire Dales, £800,000 has been spent on erosion repairs to three peaks at Ingleborough, Wharfedale and Pen-y-ghent. The park administrators are considering restricting cars in certain areas. Dozens of

techniques have been applied to rebuild paths and restore vegetation. In the Peak park, a Roman method is being used to "float" flagstones on top of soggy ground. Where the Romans used skins beneath the stones, the Peak planners use modern fibres. Certain cul-de-sac routes in the Peak park are sealed off to cars, with buses provided for those who cannot walk the distance.

Snowdonia is now feeling the effects of the new A55 north Wales expressway, which has given easy access to tourists from Liverpool and Manchester. The top of Snowdon and the five main paths to its summit are suffering from extreme erosion. Two full-time gangs of men are unable to keep pace with the wear and tear.

Proposals to close car parks around the mountain have been abandoned in deference to the uproar that would follow, although future facilities may be built further away from prime areas. Park authorities are hoping to deter

mountain-bikers. Brecon Beacons park authorities are lucky because troops from training bases help in conservation work, although it is never enough. At least £500,000 may be needed to protect the waterfalls area.

Along the wild southwest Welsh coast, the Pembrokeshire Coast park has moved to protect wildlife on the estuaries by restricting water-skiing and pleasure boats.

Dartmoor officers are negotiating with horse trekking interests to agree on routes which are less environmentally sensitive. Other lovely areas outside the park boundary are being publicised to offload the pressure. Similar strains and overgrazing in some areas are threatening Exmoor park.

The Broads has to cope with bank erosion caused by 1,600 hire boats and 10,000 private boats. Speed limits have been reduced and recharging points provided to encourage crafts with electric motors.

Trouble-shooter tackles the art of theft

The former Eastern block countries have discovered an ugly side to capitalism — the plundering of art from churches and museums, reports Sarah Jane Checkland

lantic". Her current circular includes articles on a fake Modigliani as well as on Raymond M. Scoville, a suspected murderer on the run and collector of Salvador Dali prints.

Among the British delegates will be Det Sgt Richard Ellis of Scotland Yard's art and antiques squad, who will give a paper on "London as a centre for marketing the world's stolen art".

Dr Dennis Farr, the director of the Courtauld Institute, will tell of his adventure when the painting *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery* by Pieter Bruegel was stolen from his galleries, and offered back by ransom.

New to the event, which first took place in Plymouth 18 months ago, will be a contingent of representatives from the Commonwealth of

Independent States and the former Eastern block countries, which are discovering to their dismay this unpleasant side to capitalism, as their churches and museums are plundered by art thieves. Colonel Vladimir Nicolaevich Mefy, chief of CID, Militia for the commonwealth, will talk on "Fine art and antiques theft in Russia" while Dr Hana Vondrackova of Czechoslovakia will speak about cultural and art theft in that country. "The problem is terrible," she said last week.

Moscow has been subject to a series of armed art burglaries, and a number of paintings found their way last year to Sotheby's in London.

The British art law expert Richard Cawdron will chair a seminar on the issue of title of goods. If an art work is retrieved, it is sometimes im-

possible for the owners to win it back due to differences in title to goods laws from country to country.

Another speaker will be Sir Thomas Ingilby, president of the recently formed Council for the Prevention of Art Theft, which seeks to improve communications between British police forces and police forces abroad.

"By running the conference, we hope to improve public awareness of the problem of art theft as well as improve liaison between delegates," Mr Saunders said. □ Britain's top dealers come to their own in Europe's largest ballroom this week, as exhibitors at the Grosvenor House Fair in Park Lane, London.

From Wednesday, an estimated £200 million worth of paintings, ceramics, furniture and jewellery will be displayed. Artefacts will be strictly vetted for authenticity by 18 vetting committees comprising some 135 experts. Ray O'Shea, the president of the British Antiques

Dealers Association, says: "The public may buy with complete confidence."

Most valuable, at \$3 million (£1.67 million) will be *View of the Dogana, Venice*, a painting by Canaletto formerly in the collection of the J Paul Getty Museum in California. Thought to have been painted for the artist's biggest English client, Joseph Smith, the English consul in Venice, it can be seen at the Newhouse Gallery stand.

Agnews of Bond Street will mark its 175th anniversary year with *Yarmouth Beach, looking North — Morning* by John Crome (1768 to 1821) and the attractive *Portrait of Alice Gray* by Sir John Everett Millais (1829 to 1896), which originally passed through Agnews in 1868, less than ten years after it was painted, and has now returned to its possession.

This year the fair organisers hope to lure American buyers back onto the market with the theme "1492 to 1992: 500 Years of American Patronage".

Private firms to break monopoly on public estates

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE firms are to be allowed to take over the management of council housing estates in the latest attempt to reduce local authorities' monopoly over public housing.

Sir George Young, housing minister, will tell a conference in London today that the government intends to legislate to require councils to put housing management out to competitive tender, probably early next year.

The exercise is seen in Whitehall as a dry run for the extension of compulsory competitive tendering to all council white collar services next year. At present, councils are compelled to submit only blue collar functions such as refuse collection, street cleaning and highway maintenance to competitive tender.

The government wants to extend the principle to white collar jobs such as legal and architectural services. The housing management scheme will be used to pioneer the introduction of quality thresholds that all bidders will have to meet.

Legislation requires councils to accept the lowest bid and gives them few powers to enquire into the competence of the bidder apart from basic checks on solvency and levels of equipment. Ministers believe that bringing in private contractors will cut costs and improve the service to tenants.

Councils spent a total of £1.5 billion last year administering 5.1 million council houses and flats, equivalent to £300 a property. Rent arrears stand at £430 million, with eight London boroughs accounting for £132 million of the total.

Labour-controlled Southwark has the worst record with £35 million in unpaid rent outstanding at the end of April last year. Liverpool was owed £15.8 million and

Manchester £15 million. At least 83,000 council homes are empty and some have been unoccupied for more than a year while councils spent a total of £96 million on bed and breakfast for homeless families.

Housing associations, which have provided new public housing since the government stopped councils building homes two years ago, are likely to bid for the new contracts.

Private companies likely to bid for housing contracts include the CSL Group, which already carries out the task for some councils and has poll tax and rent collection contracts with, among others, Liverpool City Council.

Dick Turpin, chief executive, said: "There are amazing savings to be made in some areas as we have found in places where we have undertaken the job on managed service basis already."

Opponents say that the government's plan will further weaken local authorities and that it is inappropriate to put the allocation of council houses to needy people in the hands of a private firm.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said the government's own figures suggested that councils were 25 per cent more efficient at running housing than housing associations. "This suggests that the government are intent on forcing through further privatisation despite the evidence presented to them by their own experts," he said.

"While improvements are needed in the provision of housing services in the public sector, extensive privatisation is clearly not the answer. This confirms our worst fears about the government's intention to further reduce the range of services provided by local government."

Bleak picture as FBI offers \$1m reward

THE FBI is so desperate for a lead on the world's biggest art theft that it is offering a \$1m reward for information (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

Eleven paintings, including the priceless *The Concert by Vermeer*, Rembrandt's *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, as well as works by Degas and Manet, were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Massachusetts, in March 1990. Two men in police uniforms overpowered nightwatchmen and disabled the security system.

At first, a 28-strong investigation team received up to 50 calls a day, but the leads have since dried up. Hoping to stimulate the investigation, the FBI marked the second anniversary of the theft this year by placing advertisements in newspapers throughout the world, including *The Times*. The *New York Times* last week reported that

detectives had questioned Brian M. McDevitt, a screenwriter who moved from Massachusetts to California about two years ago. Mr McDevitt denies robbing the Gardner and says that, since the FBI had not questioned him a second time, he feels cleared.

Recent, unsolved cases in this country include the theft of 66 snuff boxes in January from a private collection in Gloucester, and 143 snuff boxes worth £250,000 from Burghley House, Stamford, on April 24.

A £100,000 painting of VE day celebrations by L.S. Lowry was stolen from Kelvingrove Art gallery, Glasgow, during a charity ball in March.

Three bronze Rodin statues worth up to £300,000 and thought to have been stolen from a London museum in April have been recovered in a police raid in the Euston area.



A detail from *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*

Today: Tests for 14-year-olds begin and the Secondary Heads Association will voice its opposition to them. Administrators Touche Ross will seek High Court approval of a draft compensation package for depositors who lost out in BCCI collapse. Kennel Club launches Good Citizen Dog Scheme.

Tomorrow: Result of a strike ballot of 4,000 British Airways cabin crew over new pay and conditions on some flights is announced. Michael Heseltine, trade secretary, addresses Union of Democratic Miners conference. New sentencing guidelines for magistrates are published. Annual conference of Association of Chief Police Officers opens.

Wednesday: Women and the press invited for the first time to a meeting of the Freemasons' grand lodge, to be presided over by the Duke of Kent. A report by the voluntary group Values Into Action will accuse the government of bungling over the closure of mental hospitals. The former Labour MP Dave Nellist will appear in court for non-payment of poll tax.

Thursday: James Canning and Ethel Lamb will appear before magistrates in east London on charges of possessing arms and explosives. Prince of Wales to deliver inaugural John Hunt lecture at Royal College of General Practitioners.

Friday: Inflation figures for May. Deadline for BA cabin crew to accept new pay and conditions.

Saturday: Queen's Birthday celebrations. Trooping of the Colour. Some Anglican bishops and archbishops to attend Festival of Faith at Wembley to campaign against ordination of women.

Sunday: Memorial Service to be held for Jo Ramsden, murder victim with Down's syndrome.

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Irish prime minister clears his desk and finds time to crack jokes with the public

Reynolds embraces spirit of glasnost with open arms

ALBERT Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, was in great form. He was sitting in his plush swivel chair cracking jokes with the awestruck ladies from the Liberties housing estates down the road in Dublin who had come to see his private offices on the first day of public tours being conducted through government offices.

He explained about the computer that keeps him up to date with events in the Dail and next to it, his battery of telephones. "That's the private line," he said, pointing to the one on the far right, "the hot line — the high security line." It was the one he used for talking to his ministers, he said.

And the desk itself, enquired one of his admiring visitors. It was so tidy. Mr Reynolds, who still seems to be buzzing with the initial excitement of having finally made it to prime minister three months ago, confessed that he never leaves anything on his desk overnight. "It starts off tidy," he said. "It gets untidy and then it ends up tidy again in the evening." The ladies from the housing estates loved it and laughed as if being entertained by a comedian.

For Mr Reynolds, who has more than enough on his plate trying to keep Ireland on an even keel in the run up to the Maastricht referendum in just over a week's time, this was more than just an exercise in PR. This was part of his commitment to a new spirit of open government in Ireland — something that he

Ireland's voters are queuing up to take advantage of a new hotline to the taoiseach, writes Edward Gorman

believes involves not only allowing people access to those who make decisions in their name, but also to the places where they are made.

As he conducted the first-ever tour of the Taoiseach's offices and the cabinet rooms in the heart of the imposing government buildings off Merrion Street in the centre of Dublin on Saturday, he explained that he was initially struck by the idea during a visit to the White House in Washington years ago, where public tours are permitted.

When he became prime minister he decided to set up a similar scheme in Dublin, overriding those who advised against it on security and other grounds. "I never worry too much about security and never did," he said. "I think it's a question of what sort of relationship you have with the people — it's up to the security people to trawl (the offices) after the day is over to make sure there's nothing there."

He said he believed opening up his office was the quickest way to demonstrate open government in practice. "From the first day I came here I noticed every morning there were always people standing at the gates looking in — cameras trying to get

pictures and everything — so I thought, well this isn't right. It's their building, let's open up the gates and let them in."

The free tours, which operate on a first-come, first-served basis, are planned to run on Saturdays throughout the year, except during times of particularly pressing government business. Already there is great interest, with between 300 and 400 people queuing for tickets on the first day.

Gabriel O'Dowd, a local parish priest who was on the tour, believes the tours should be just the beginning of a new era of Irish glasnost. "I'd like to see more of this because I feel that people don't know what's going on, what's happening, where our money is being spent. I think it's time to open the doors to the people. We are all educated — why should we be kept out and kept away from all these situations?"



Ushering in a new era: Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, gives a hug to the youngest visitor to his office. Mr Reynolds took his idea for public tours of government offices from the White House

Welsh ask Hunt to stop poll

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE government is considering cancelling next year's county council elections in Wales because of plans to replace the principally eight counties with 23 single-tier authorities.

David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, said in a Commons written answer that he had been approached by representatives of the existing districts and county councils to consider the question. He said no decision had been taken.

Robin Young, senior civil servant in charge of the local government review in England, told a conference in Brighton last week that the government had no intention of cancelling local elections in England next year.

The fate of the 39 English counties is to be considered in a five-year study by a commission chaired by Sir John Banham, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry. It will start work in the autumn. By contrast, Mr Hunt hopes his Welsh plan will be implemented within the next few years.

Ministers defend Maastricht treaty

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are anxious to stem the growing tide of opposition to the Maastricht treaty within the Conservative party by exposing the naivety of demands to renegotiate the treaty or carry out a referendum.

Government sources say that it would be virtually impossible to renegotiate a treaty that would be more favourable to the British and there were risks that Britain could lose some of the ground it had achieved in Maastricht. John Major is understood to be keen to press ahead with ratification of the Maastricht bill before the recess if possible. He and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, are said to be considering using the debate following the Lisbon summit at the end of this month to test the water.

Sir Leon Brittan, EC commissioner, said yesterday that failure to implement the Maastricht treaty would leave Britain isolated in economic, political and security terms. The treaty was as good now as when it was agreed last December and was not made worse by the narrow Danish majority against it. It was completely unrealistic to renegotiate it, he added. "It creates a little, local difficulty but it does not make it bad."

Sir Leon called on the other 11 EC member states to go ahead with the treaty and to give the Danes an opportunity to have second thoughts about it. While the government is anxious not to put too

much overt pressure on backbenchers, ministers are wary about the influence of the so-called "suicide squad" of about 21 Euro-sceptic MPs. There is also growing nervousness that the Labour party might favour a referendum as a way of embarrassing or undermining the government. The Liberal Democrats already support the idea and if enough Tories took the same view, the government could be in trouble.

Labour is discussing its stand over Maastricht at a meeting of the parliamentary Labour party on Wednesday. Tony Benn has put down a motion for a referendum but the leadership is opposed to the idea and it is unlikely to get majority backing.

Norman Tebbit, who was made a life peer in the dissolution honours list, backed calls for a referendum. Polls show nearly three out of four voters want a referendum.



Sir Leon: Danish vote a "little local difficulty"

Britain to support Delors re-election

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is to support the reappointment of Jacques Delors as president of the European Commission for an unprecedented third term because it has severe reservations about the three strongest alternative candidates — and because ministers believe it will help them to secure the eventual election of their favourite, Rud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister.

The Foreign Office believes that if M Delors were turned down, the three most likely candidates would be Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish socialist prime minister, Gianni De Michelis, the former Italian foreign minister, regarded in Whitehall as bright but unpredictable, and Martin Bangemann, the German Commissioner whom they regard as a fanatical campaigner for the re-

moval of frontier controls that they want to retain.

Ministers are also admitting privately that they have made a mistake in allowing the press and Tory backbenchers to make an ogre of M Delors over his federalist ambitions, when they have much regard for his practical performance as a European civil servant.

They point out that M Delors is no wastrel, keeping a tight hold on Community spending, and that he and the British tend to turn up on time for meetings, properly briefed. While he may have vaulting ambitions for centralising the biggest decisions, he is ready to see more minor matters determined by individual nation states.

M Delors will seek re-election for a further three years at the Lisbon summit later this month.

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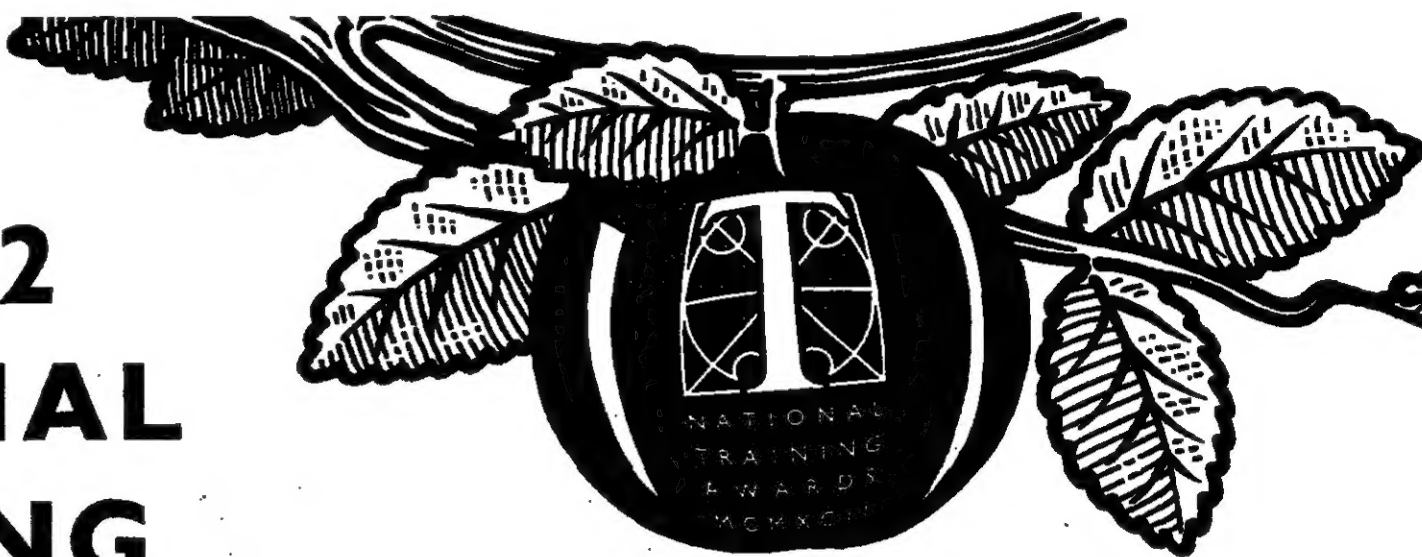
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Deaf aid firm fined for sharp practices

HIDDEN Hearing, a leading supplier of deaf aids, became the first victim of new powers to curb people who prey on the hard of hearing when it was fined for practices that it admitted were disgraceful.

The company, which receives 100,000 enquiries a year, admitted seven charges of sending out unqualified staff to recommend to elderly people which type of hearing aid best suited them. It was also accused of trying to "buy out" disciplinary proceedings against one of its salesmen, Graham Mann, by offering refunds on condition that complaints were dropped.

The charges were brought under a law introduced three years ago after complaints that the Hearing Aid Council, the industry's watchdog, was incapable of controlling high pressure selling, overcharging and poor service, which were becoming increasingly rife.

Critics have complained about the delay in bringing the charges and the penalties imposed: a £6,400 fine for a

The hearing aid industry's watchdog has used its new powers for the first time, Tony Dawe writes

company with a turnover this year of £8 million and a deferred sentence for a salesman who admitted failing to refund elderly clients for unsatisfactory aids.

The findings of the council's disciplinary committee were welcomed, however, by Ieuan Wyn Jones, MP, the chairman of Plaid Cymru who sponsored the parliamentary bill which changed the law. He said yesterday: "It is good to know that the new powers are being used and that they will be a lesson to the industry."

The charges against Hidden Hearing and Mr Mann, of Reydon, Southwold, Suffolk, were outlined at an unreported four day meeting of the committee in London last week. The company admitted six charges concerning

the employment of unqualified staff and one of supplying a trainee with a company business card describing him as "a hearing aid dispenser".

Three of the charges concerned Daniel Plunkett, of Carlisle, Cumbria, a trainee aged 63 who had failed badly the only council examination he had ever taken. In another case, an elderly woman from Newcastle upon Tyne was persuaded to spend £1,038 on two hearing aids by an unqualified salesman who she thought had called to repair her old aid.

The committee was told that the use of trainees to sell hearing aids had always happened in the industry and had continued despite the introduction 17 years ago of new rules designed to outlaw the practice.

Michael Sutcliffe, chairman of Hidden Hearing, said the company now employed a highly qualified training officer and had tightened all procedures concerning trainees. It had taken steps to ensure that none was unsuitable.

Passing sentence, Bill



Rebuked and warned: Michael Sutcliffe, chairman of Hidden Hearing, with his solicitor Kaser Butt

Fernie, the committee chairman, said it was "by no means satisfied that Hidden Hearing has as yet introduced sufficient procedures to ensure that breaches of the rules do not occur again". He warned the company that if it appeared before the disciplinary committee again it would face "the very real possibility" of being struck off the register of hearing aid dispensers.

The charges against Mr Mann involved four cases of serious misconduct, which he admitted, in his dealings with elderly clients while he was in practice on his own. In one case, a retired builder aged 83 had paid £299 for a hearing aid which proved unsatisfactory but had been unable to obtain a refund. In all the cases, Mr Mann had failed to answer complaints

from his clients, their families and solicitors. The committee deferred sentence until December after hearing that Mr Mann had been declared bankrupt and had taken a new job as salesman with Hidden Hearing.

MPs gave council new teeth

THE new law used at last week's disciplinary tribunal not only gave the Hearing Aid Council powers to fine dispensers and order them to pay the costs of disciplinary proceedings but also changed the constitution of the council, which had been dominated by the industry.

The council now consists of four members of the industry, four representatives of the hard of hearing, four medical experts and an independent chairman. Nine members and the chairman sit on the disciplinary committee.

During debate on the new law, the Commons heard that the Hearing Aid Council had proved "ineffective and inadequate" and that its disciplinary committee had sometimes not met for several years. Ieuan Wyn Jones, the Plaid Cymru MP for Ynys Mon who sponsored the bill, said yesterday: "Previously, the committee's only power had been to strike dispensers off its register and that was so drastic that the committee was often reluctant to take action." It last struck off a dispenser in 1988, for fraud.

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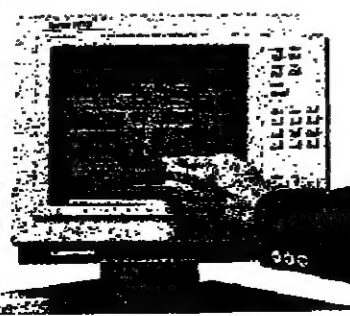
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Paperwork to delay more trials

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CROWN courts and all crown court judges have been warned in a Home Office circular that new legislation will cause a big increase in adjournments and, in turn, costly and frustrating delays.

The Home Office says that probation officers will have to prepare an estimated 20,000 or more extra pre-sentence reports when the Criminal Justice Act 1991 comes into effect in October.

The circular says that there will be a "considerable number" of additional adjournments in crown courts where up to 30 per cent of reports will be prepared on adjournment compared with 15 per cent now.

The circular, based on the findings of pilot trials in Birmingham, Bristol, Lincoln, Newcastle and Southwark last year, will renew pressure on the Lord Chancellor's department and Crown Prosecution Service to tackle late changes in plea and "cracked" trials that collapse when a plea changes at the last minute.

Among proposals are that pre-trial reports be prepared in all cases where there is a guilty plea to the most serious charge; much tighter time limits on the preparation of many reports (seven days or less instead of the usual 21 to 28 days); court reporters in every court; and better communication between judges and probation service. The need for pre-sentence reports comes about as part of the aim of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 to reduce the number of custodial sentences.

Paul Cavatino, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, welcomed the proposals. He said many offenders pleading guilty in crown courts were sentenced without a social enquiry report. Nearly 60 per cent of offenders sentenced to custody who pleaded not guilty (or pleaded guilty late) had no pre-sentence report, he added.

RAF hails sacrifice of radar team

An RAF Nimrod flew over the Welsh borders to mark the deaths of 50 people who died in the development of Britain's airborne radar system between 1936 and 1946.

Their names never appeared on a war memorial. Their work was publicly acknowledged for the first time yesterday when RAF officers visited the crash site of a Halifax four-engine bomber test plane at Bicknor, Hereford and Worcester.

A stained glass window was dedicated at Goodrich castle, near the crash scene. Among those present was Sir Bernard Lovell, creator of H2S radar, the bomber's eye.

Shark netted

A 14ft basking shark weighing 500lb was hauled up in the mackerel nets of John Walker's boat eight miles off Lyme Regis, Dorset. "It was thrashing about too wildly to go near it," Mr Walker, of Colyton, Devon, said.

Skydiver named

A parachutist who died when he drifted on to the A45 at Nacton, Suffolk, and was struck by a lorry was named by police yesterday as Stephen Cole, aged 33, of Shepherds Bush, west London.

View restored

The Scott Monument in Edinburgh reopens to the public today two years after closure for essential repairs. A public enquiry is considering experts' conflicting advice on how to restore it.

Minority grows

One in six of the 52,000 births registered in the Irish Republic last year was outside of marriage, compared with one in seven in 1990.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond prize draw are £100,000, number 31TW 444063 (who lives in Dorset), value of holding £500; £50,000, 82W 209184 (Surrey); £25,000, 1W 282081 (Harrington, northeast London); £1,058.

Lundy calls time on lifelong resident

BY JOE JOSEPH

ONE or two of the more louché Greek islands turn into summer-long *al fresco* discotheques and might be suspected of nurturing a youth cult, but surely not the quiet twitchee's paradise of Lundy in the Bristol Channel.

Yet Richard Ingrams' *Oldie* magazine, which champions the blessings of maturity, may have found a fresh target for its ageist rage now that Lundy Island's administrators have evicted Mary Squire because she is about to breach the bird sanctuary's 60-year-old age ceiling.

She arrived on the island when she was just a few days old. Her father was Lundy's administrator when the two-mile granite outcrop was privately owned. She married and bore three children there.

A brief spell on Exmoor many years ago failed to agree with Mrs Squire so

she flew back to rejoin Lundy's 30-strong population, running the island's laundry and cleaning the holiday cottages rented by walkers and bird-watchers.

When she stopped working, and was forced to give up her tied cottage next to the Marisco Tavern, she was told it was time to go. Lundy is owned by the National Trust and is run by the Landmark Trust, who feel that the island is no place for pensioners. Mrs Squire is two years short of the barrier, but decided to leave early.

John Puddy, the administrator, says that if everyone stayed into retirement there would be no accommodation for newcomers.

"Living on Lundy is rather like living on a ship. We are here to serve the public, and no one is ever employed under the impression there is a home for life," he said.

B&B fa



Soviet break-t
spreads talent
chess Olympiad



Curse of middle
afflicts childre

B&B farmers reap tourist harvest to make ends meet



Living off the tourists: Bob Lamb has switched resources to encourage valuable B&B guests

BOB Lamb and his forebears have been looking after sheep on the stony Cotswold "brash" of the family farm at Wootton near Woodstock, Oxfordshire, since the 1820s. These days, he and his wife, Christina, spend as much of their time tending a more recent addition to their livestock: passing flocks of anglers and bed-and-breakfasters.

Like many other farmers, they have turned to "diversification" to make good the decline in income from more orthodox agriculture. The turning point for the Lambs came four years ago, when Bob took a fresh look at the traditional family business based on barley and sheep and decided the figures no longer made sense.

"We were turning money over but not actually making anything," Mr Lamb said in the flagged dining-room of his grey-stone farmhouse, built in 1639. "Sheep prices were static or falling and costs rising. Much of our land is bank grazing—steep hillsides which are splendid for flowers and birds but susceptible to drought and unreliable for grass growth."

For years, an old mill stream had periodically flooded a meadow in a low-

lying part of the farm. Mr Lamb decided to turn the meadow into a two-acre lake with three islands. Now stocked with brown and rainbow trout and fringed with bullrushes, the lake draws up to ten anglers a day paying £20 a head and is a haven for geese, ducks and kingfishers. A second lake linked to the first is to be dug this autumn.

After fitting out three double bedrooms in the farmhouse with en suite shower-rooms, the Lambs began taking lodgers in 1988. The guests pay £20 each a night and eat breakfast with the family. They had 90 guests in May, many of them from overseas, and if last year is any guide, can expect up to 150 in July and August.

B&B is not for everyone. Mr Lamb admits, "My brother who farms near by would die rather than take in strangers," he said. But the Lambs have had few bad experiences. Only once have they had to ask a guest to leave—a "weird" gentleman from Monaco who

made unwelcome advances to their daughter and, according to Christina, "emptied the village pub every time he walked in". The Lambs are better placed than most to reap the tourist harvest. The area itself, a demi-Eden of small hills and valleys, stone cottages and hedgerows of dog rose and elder bushes, is a setpiece of Cotswold Picturesque. Oxford is just down the road, Blenheim Palace lies over the brow of a hill and Stratford and Shakespeare country are within easy striking distance.

Farming continues but has had to be restructured. Back in 1988 there were more than 240 acres, of which the family owned 143. Since then Mr Lamb has shed 60 acres of pasture he rented and the one full-time farmhand and part-time student he employed. He has got rid of all heavy machinery, calling in outside contractors when needed. In place of barley and oats, Mr Lamb is growing 32 acres of sainfoin, a

drought-resistant plant much valued as a high-energy feed for race-horses.

He has about the same number of sheep as before, including up to 80 pure Texel ewes for breeding rams and some 200 cross-bred ewes for producing butchers' lamb. But the latter are now kept only from October to May, when they are sold for fattening to farmers with better grass.

"We would make more per lamb if we finished them ourselves but the advantage is that we reduce the number of sheep we are carrying during the dry part of the year and have more time to devote to our visitors in the peak summer months. The countryside is now as much a part of what we are selling as food and we have had to adjust accordingly."

Mr Lamb says farmers are not helped by confusing signals from the authorities. "The agriculture ministry tells us to diversify but the West Oxfordshire District Council wants us to take down a tiny sign we put up beside the A34 Oxford-Stratford road advertising the B&B which draws in two thirds of our custom. If family farms are to survive, we must be allowed to capitalise on our assets."



Living off the land: Mr Lamb's forebears gather the harvest in the Cotswolds in the 1800s

Soviet break-up spreads talent in chess Olympics

PRESIDENT Corason Aquino of the Philippines opened the biggest Chess Olympiad yesterday in Manila with a brief ceremonial game against the world champion, Garry Kasparov.

Serious play will begin today in what will be the strongest chess Olympics yet held. The break-up of the Soviet Union has led to a proliferation of teams. In most sports, the new Commonwealth of Independent States has been the official competing body, combining all the former Soviet Union's talent. But in chess, the Soviet players were so dominant that most republics are fielding their own sides.

The upheavals that toppled the former Soviet Union have been manifested on the chessboard in Manila, with 12 Commonwealth republics competing, some of which have not been seen at the chess Olympiad since Buenos Aires in 1939. Other national teams have been swamped with former Soviet grandmasters. The United States, for example, has three former Soviet players in its six-man team, with Gata Kamsky, 17, Kasparov's *bête noire*, on top board, no doubt eager for another encounter with the world champion.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union might well have opened the way to gold for England, winners of the silver medals three times since

Raymond Keene examines the field as the world's grandmasters prepare for battle in Manila

1984, by scattering the opposition. As it is, Russia is still No 1 seed, headed by Kasparov, Karpov and Yusupov.

The 11 other teams from the former Soviet Union are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kirghizia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Seven of those are seeded in the top 20.

Yugoslavia, originally the No 5 seed, has been banned from the Olympics after the Philippine government implemented the UN sports boycott. Teams from Bosnia, Croatia and Slovenia will all take part.

England field their strongest line-up. Nigel Short, fresh from his triumph against Anatoly Karpov in the individual world championship, leads the team of, in board order, the grandmasters Jon Speelman, Michael Adams, John Nunn, Murray Chandler and Julian Hodgson.

The figures are revealing: Russia has an average World Chess Federation rating for its team of 2696. England is 2638, and the United States is 2629 as is the Ukraine. No other team is over 2600. In individual rating terms, 2600 is normally regarded as the cut-off point for a super grandmaster.

Will England find its habitual Olympic silver medals threatened by Latvia and the Ukraine, or by the newly Russianified USA? Or will England now, as Nigel Short has proved possible at a personal level, take over from the former Soviet Union? The answers will come during the next three weeks. *The Times* will carry daily reports on play in the Manila Olympics.



Short: leader of the strong England squad

Curse of middle age afflicts children

By ALISON ROBERTS

A NEW form of gout, the painful joint disease, is affecting children and babies causing kidney failure in patients as young as seven, research at Guy's Hospital shows.

Children suffering from gout have been misdiagnosed in the past, because the disease had usually been associated with middle-aged men, a rich diet and over-consumption of alcohol, said Stewart Cameron, professor of renal medicine at Guy's. He said that the new form is relatively rare, affecting perhaps several thousand children and young people in Britain who have inherited defective genes, but can lead to kidney failure within five years of the onset of the disease.

The team at Guy's has received a three-year grant from the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for further research. Professor Cameron said that finding the gene codes would help to identify victims before any clinical

manifestations of the disease. Gout occurs in older patients when enzyme defects triggered by factors such as diet lead to overproduction of uric acid, causing crystals to form in the joints. Deposits cause inflammation in the kidneys and can lead to renal failure. The cause of kidney failure in children with gout is baffling because no such inflammation is found.

Professor Cameron said: "We have been able to study a number of affected families, and the major characteristic of those with problems in children is an extremely low excretion of urate, lower even than in most gouty subjects. This is clearly not caused by lifestyle factors." Joint pain can be controlled by drugs, but doctors are not sure how to prevent renal failure.

National Arthritis Week, starting today, focuses on the 145,000 young victims of other joint diseases who, the council says, are overlooked.

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Politics of intolerance speed Czechoslovakia divorce

OUTSIDE the Trinity church in Bratislava, Slovaks clustered after Mass yesterday to discuss their future in an independent state. "We'll have our own stamps," said Augustin, 12, excitedly, "and our own money, and passports too." Sure enough, agreed the adults, independence was now inevitable and even desirable. But they said this with little enthusiasm. It is difficult for them — for any European — to forget that Croats and Slovenes also have their own currency and postage stamps.

Slovakia, set on the road to divorce by the weekend's general election, is beginning to separate the rhetoric of independence from the gritty reality. The West is worried at this new source of instability in Europe. A fortnight ago in Bratislava, John Major made the point that the EC association agreement had been signed with Czechoslovakia, not with Czechs and Slovaks.

Lawrence Eagleburger, the American deputy secretary of state, recently signalled his preference for the federal policies of Prague.

A nation's fate is in the hands of a former communist Slovak nationalist, who captured a third of the votes, Roger Boyes writes from Bratislava



rather than the secessionist politics of Bratislava. More significantly, the various minorities in Slovakia, including Hungarians, are worried about a new extreme nationalist leadership whose last experience of modern statehood was under Father Josef Tiso, a man beholden to Hitler.

Vladimir Meciar, leader of the Movement for Democratic Slovakia who will now be Slovak prime minister and the chief broker of Czechoslovakia's future, has

done little to calm these fears. This former Communist got his biggest applause at campaign rallies with nasty references to the 600,000 ethnic Hungarians. "I visited these people and they asked me why I didn't speak Hungarian. I told them there is only one language in Slovakia — the Slovak."

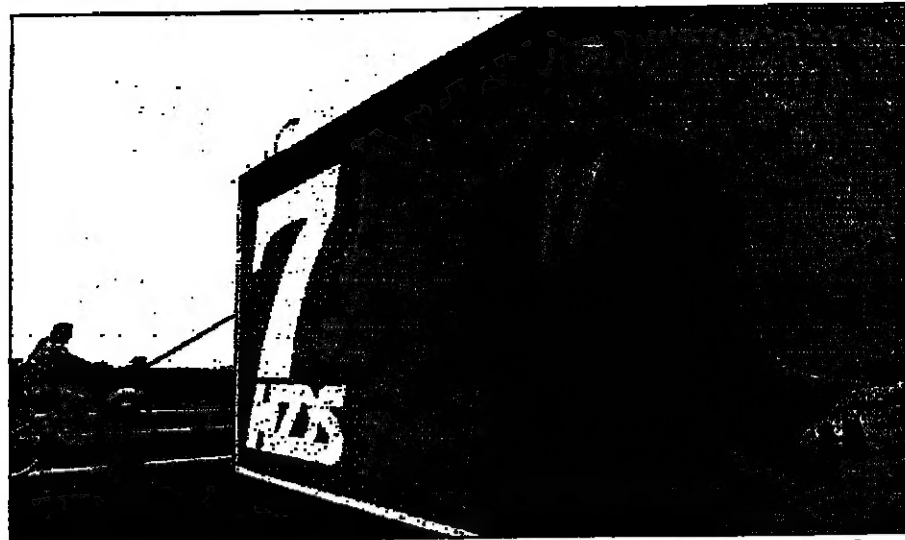
The weekend elections showed big support for the politics of intolerance not only in Slovakia but also in the Czech Lands: the radical right-wing Republican party did surprisingly well, with more than 6 per cent of the vote, and will be an important force in the Czech assembly. Putting pressure on politicians to keep Czechoslovakia together will merely increase the friction. Quite simply, Slovaks believe they have the right to self-determination.

The Czechoslovak state, established in 1918, was an

imperfect marriage. The Slovaks fell under Hungarian control in 906 and were Hungarian subjects for 1,000 years. The Czechs and Moravians, by contrast, grew up together with the German nation. Only a related language connected Czechs and Slovaks. The idea of a Czechoslovak nation sprang up in the 19th century as a romantic answer to the crumbling Austro-Hungarian empire.

For a while, after 1918, the new Czechoslovak state did serve both nations. Czechs dominated the Slovak education and judicial system and sometimes behaved like benign colonisers — but the yoke appeared less irksome than that of the Hungarians. Later, there was wide support for Father Tiso's pro-Nazi Slovak state.

The Communists, after the 1948 takeover of power, were committed to Czechoslovakia but acknowledged the separatist longings of the Slovaks and tried to buy them off with greater local autonomy, plum posts in the party, and the development



Wheels of fortune: a cyclist passing a poster of Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak victor

of heavy industry. The collapse of communism robbed this unitary Czechoslovak state of its meaning: without an ideology, the state was reduced to a cost-benefit analysis. The Slovaks have decided that the costs outweigh the benefits.

Mr Meciar is the unhappy child of this unsatisfactory union. His support comes from rural Catholics, from

hardline nationalists, and from the post-war generation which knows only the arms factories, the rolling mills and the housing estates. That is why he is both a nationalist and a socialist. He has put forward a programme of independence — a declaration of sovereignty by the new Slovak parliament, a new Slovak constitution, followed by a referendum and then negotiations with the Czechs on a loose confederation.

The economic argument will be fierce. The Czechs are convinced that they are being bled by the Slovaks, that the Czechoslovak state is a necessary, but expensive sacrifice. Slovaks say the large share of federal subsidies they receive goes mainly towards paying the debt to

jobless Slovaks. This unemployment, in turn, was the result of shock-therapy reforms initiated by Vladimír Klaus, the finance minister. There is thus a case, yet to be tested, that Slovakia can improve its economic position through independence. Gradual reform and the conversion of arms factories, at a pace set by a free Slovak government, is the least painful way out of the crisis, the Slovaks argue.

Whatever the validity of the argument, it is now clear that the general elections were essentially about the two halves taking charge of their own lives. In the Czech Lands, they voted for Mr Klaus because he represented economic power. As shareholders and property owners, Czechs are beginning to get a handle on their future. In Slovakia, the logic of independence is simply that a Slovak government, free of Prague, will rule exclusively in the Slovak interest.

Havel may go, page 1
Leading article, page 15

Chetnik gunners concentrate fire on Sarajevo reservoir, hospitals and TV station

Serbs savour artillery power over Muslims

FROM BILL FROST IN PALE, SARAJEVO

WITH a whoop of joy, the young artilleryman threw his cap in the air as he watched a shell strike Sarajevo's main reservoir. "Direct hit! No water to drink, no water for the Muslims to make bread," he laughed.

The weekend bombardment of the beleaguered Muslim suburbs was probably among the most intense since the siege of Sarajevo began nine weeks ago. Yesterday Serb gunners concentrated their fire on a number of targets: the reservoir, two hospitals treating wounded fighters, a mosque, and the headquarters of Bosnian television, which has managed to broadcast news bulletins throughout the shelling.

Fires burnt out of control across the city yesterday as, after a brief lull in the assault, Serb heavy guns on the hills opened up again. At least six people were confirmed dead in the morning, but the real figure is almost certainly much higher.

Serb irregulars also shelled the Marshal Tito barracks in an attempt to destroy heavy artillery abandoned by Yugoslav army troops given safe passage on Friday. Should Muslim militiamen capture the big guns, Serb hill positions would be in easy range.

Peki, a chain-smoking Ser-



bian volunteer, relaxed briefly during the bombardment and sniffed the hillside rose bushes which concealed his mortar position. "From here we can hit the airport. If the United Nations opens up the strip then the first plane that comes will be shot down. It will not be relief supplies they carry but weapons for the Muslims," he said.

Like many on the slopes above Sarajevo, Peki is a Chetnik, a member of the extreme Serb nationalist movement. Identifiable by their thick beards and broad-brimmed hats, the men are walking armoured, laden with bandoliers, grenades, sub-machineguns, side arms and long-bladed knives.

More cheers from the slopes below followed the earth-shaking roar of four howitzers simultaneously targeting the reservoir. Peki danced on the spot. "Soon the

Muslim throats will be even drier. Not much water now, but before today is done there will be none at all," he said, before loading another round into his mortar.

On the road east of Sarajevo, at Srebrenica, a man's body lay in a stream. The Chetniks pointed out that he had been impaled on a long metal stake. "See, the Muslims cut off his fingers too," said a young volunteer discussing the atrocity with complete indifference.

Could the killing have been carried out by Serbs? Might the victim be a Muslim? The young man became angry. "No, of course not. We Serbs know that it is a traditional Muslim execution to skewer a man on the spit like a pig. But they will pay, they are paying already," he said.

Srebrenica is a Sarajevo in miniature, a small Muslim town ringed by artillery and pounded mercilessly. Six bodies lie in a woodland clearing — Serb skirmishers killed by Muslim fighters.

Over the weekend Serbs offered to trade 60 hostages — women and children — for the return of the corpses. The Muslim commander of the town refused, saying he could not even feed his own men and despite being in enemy hands the captives were probably safer where they were.

At nearby Bratunac on the Drina river, Serb artillery opened up again on Srebrenica. Some of the gunners listened to personal stories as they loaded. Rocko, 18, a student, said: "I listen to heavy metal, the group Guns N' Roses. That way you don't hear too much noise from the real gun."

Two streets away a Muslim woman, too old and frail to flee, stood before the ruins of her mosque. The building had collapsed in on itself after a direct hit four days ago. The old lady said: "It was a Muslim gun. They aimed for the petrol station next door but hit the mosque instead. I want to pray but I can't. I want to leave but they won't let me." A Chetnik roughly moved the old woman on. "Back to your house mother. You Muslims that stayed are under 24-hour curfew," he said as he went through her bag.

Bernard Levin, page 14



Emergency service: Lieutenant-Colonel Lois Lodge, commander of the British 24 Field Ambulance, chats with officers after her unit arrived in Zagreb to take up duties with the UN peacekeeping force

British unit joins UN Croatia force

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE British military contingent attached to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Croatia arrived over the weekend, with a warning that it could become a target in the bloody ethnic fighting.

Nearly 300 British military personnel, mostly from 24 Field Ambulance, are now located at Pleso airbase, five miles southeast of Zagreb. Most of them arrived on Saturday. Their role is to provide medical support for the UN force.

The British unit has come with a substantial stock of ammunition, because of the danger of being attacked by one or other of the warring factions in Croatia. The 297 servicemen and women are equipped only with side arms. The medical team is com-

manded by Lieutenant-Colonel Lois Lodge, the first woman to command a regular army unit. The overall British commander, however, is Colonel Christopher Price, who has been in the former Yugoslavia for some time.

Colonel Price said that, despite the UN-brokered ceasefire, the situation remained potentially explosive. He said: "The Red Cross symbol is not necessarily recognised by any of the factions. There are some people who are quite happy to shoot at an ambulance as at anything else."

Ambulances which are already operating with the UN in the ceasefire zone have frequently been stopped and searched by armed supporters of both the Serb and the Croats.

Journalists protest over death threats

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOREIGN correspondents accredited in Belgrade are protesting to the Serbian authorities over harassment and intimidation of journalists covering the civil war, including death threats. The journalists will today tell the Yugoslav presidency that they will hold the authorities responsible "should any harm come to colleagues as the result of further intimidation".

The protest was prompted by death threats made against Džeska Trevisan, the veteran correspondent of *The Times* based in Belgrade. Other reporters have also been threatened with violence. Mrs Trevisan received repeated telephone calls last week from unidentified men threatening to kill her.

Another threat was made at the weekend. She was also accused outside Belgrade's International Press Centre and told: "We know where you live. We will break down your door and come to finish you." At least 20 journalists have been killed since the civil war began, most caught in artillery bombardments or hit by snipers.

The formal protest, signed by 23 journalists, has been sent to President Milošević as well as to the foreign minister and the information ministry. Last week, Mr Milošević accused the Western media of bias, insisting that the sanctions against Serbia were unjust and laying the blame on foreign journalists. "We are treated like criminals," he declared.

Family guarded

Palermo: Police placed the sister and brother-in-law of the late Judge Giovanni Falcone, the anti-Mafia campaigner recently killed in a bomb explosion, under protection after fire damaged a shipyard here that is managed by them. (AFP)

Eta arrests

Paris: French anti-terrorist police arrested two Spanish Basques believed to be top military members of Eta. One was named as Miguel Angel Gil Cervera, wanted in Spain in connection with several terrorist attacks. The other was not named. (AFP)

Climbers lost

Kathmandu: Two Romanian women mountaineers, Taina Coliban, 48, and Sandia Isaila, 42, were feared killed in the Nepalese Himalayas on the 26,795 ft Dhaulagiri I, the world's seventh highest peak, the tourism ministry said. (Reuters)

Pilot grounded

Copenhagen: Danish authorities grounded a pilot who saved 129 people on board a disabled aircraft in a crash-landing outside Stockholm last year. Stefan Rasmussen, the pilot, has said that since the crash he has not felt comfortable flying. (AP)

Planes compete

Delhi: The Indian air force has shortlisted the British Hawk and the French Alpha made respectively by British Aerospace and Dassault-Dornier, for acquisition as an advanced jet trainer, said Air Chief Marshal N. C. Suri, the chief of staff. (AFP)

Church blazes

Copenhagen: Fire wrecked Christiansborg Palace Church next to the Danish parliament building, and police charged two men with causing the blaze by firing rockets during a carnival. It was the third big fire this year in the city centre. (Reuters)

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Yellow star points to anti-Nazis' courage

Fifty years to the day after French Jews were ordered by the German occupation authorities to wear a yellow star in public, an elderly man called Maurice Rafjus takes a scrap of cloth from his battered wallet to show one of the 400,000 emblems that were distributed. Every Jew over the age of six had to have three such stars, and M Rafjus carries his everywhere in remembrance of an era which many here would prefer to forget.

But as new books, films and television documentaries dealing with the 50th anniversary of the first rafles (mass round-ups) of Jews in France appear, there is growing support for the view that enforcing the

French non-Jews were capable of altruism as well as collaboration, Philip Jacobson writes in Paris

yellow-star rule rebounded on the Germans. Until that morning of June 7, 1942, argues Serge Klarsfeld, Nazi-hunter and historian of anti-Semitism, the French had been indifferent to the treatment of their Jewish fellow-citizens.

But that moment was "a psychological turning point in the comportment of non-Jews... a strategic error by the Germans", M Klarsfeld told *Le Journal du Dimanche*: the compassion that was born then became

"the essential factor behind the eventual survival of three-quarters of the Jews of France". The sight of the *juif* stars provoked small but significant gestures of solidarity that eventually gave way to acts of great courage by individuals determined to help the Jews. Alice Courouble, 29, non-Jewish, was arrested on Boulevard Saint-Michel wearing a yellow star and spent several weeks in custody; and Marie Lang was detained after pinning a star to the

collar of her dog as a sign of contempt for the measure.

This aspect of France under occupation, when collaboration was widespread, needs to be presented, says the film-maker Marek Halter, whose work on the subject, *Tzedek* (Hebrew for justice and charity), is due for release next year. "It is time to talk about people who braved the worst to save lives," he observes. Like M Klarsfeld, who does not spare his fellow French where collaboration is concerned, M Halter argues that the quality of compassion could triumph over evil.

By the summer of 1942 the repression was in full swing, with Jews excluded from many professions, for-

bidden to use the telephone or frequent public places, and penned in their homes by an evening curfew. In mid-July, French police rounded up more than 13,000 Jews in Paris, a third young children, not a single German soldier or Gestapo man participated in the operation, underlining, for those French who wanted to see, how morally compromised the French authorities had become.

Maurice Rafjus lost his family in one such sweep by the French police. As he told *Le Journal*, he keeps that piece of cloth, with all its terrible associations, "to show the cops when they are arresting Arabs in the Metro".

Delay in aid threatens to undermine Yeltsin rule

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILLIONS of dollars of essential Western aid to Russia may be held up for several months by American election-year politics and growing resistance in Moscow to painful economic reforms. The delay threatens to undermine President Yeltsin, hamper his efforts to push key economic reforms through a hostile Parliament, and force him to postpone plans to make the rouble freely convertible.

In Washington, the multi-billion-dollar American aid package announced by President Bush on April 1 stands no chance of being approved by both Houses of Congress by the time of Mr Yeltsin's

official visit next month, as originally planned. The "free-trade support" bill is bogged down in a Congress terrified of voter revenge in November if it is seen putting foreign aid before domestic programmes, especially after the Los Angeles riots.

For the same reason, Mr Bush has done no public lobbying for a bill whose importance, when he announced it, he could not overstate. "The stakes for us now are as high for us now as any that we have faced this century," he said at the time. "If this democratic revolution (in Russia) is defeated, it could plunge us into a world more dangerous in some respects than the dark years of the Cold War."

Mayor of Moscow steps down

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

GAVRIL Popov, the shrewd economics professor who is one of the fathers of Russian reform, has stepped down as mayor of Moscow and will concentrate on mounting a referendum on land ownership and the constitution.

The plebiscite is likely to turn into a bitter struggle between progressive city dwellers and the conservative forces entrenched in the Russian provinces and on the back benches of parliament. Mr Popov, and possibly President Yeltsin, appear to have concluded that no further progress towards economic and political liberalisation is possible without a big shift in the balance of power. The outgoing mayor sees a referendum, which can be forced by the collection of one million signatures, as the only way to break the conservative influence.

For advocates of a plebiscite, one of the last straw was a vote by the spring session of the Russian Congress, or supreme legislature, to uphold constitutional restrictions on the sale and purchase of land. Reformers view private ownership of land as fundamental to the creation of a full-blooded market. But for collective farm chairmen, the idea is anathema.

Radical supporters of Mr Yeltsin have already started gathering the necessary signatures, but the fact that Mr Popov is now free to back their campaign makes it much more likely that a referendum will go ahead.



Finding answers: Abulfaz Elchibey, leader of the nationalist Popular Front and favourite among the five candidates to win Azerbaijan's presidential election, cheerfully answers questions after casting his vote yesterday. The election follows bitter military defeats for Azerbaijanis at the hands of Armenian forces around the war zone of Nagorno-Karabakh (Bruce Clark writes from Moscow). Mr Elchibey, 52, is a staunch opponent of the Kremlin. The election result may be known today, and if victorious Mr Elchibey would be only the second ruler of a former Soviet republic — after Lithuania's Vytautas Landsbergis — to have a record of uncompromising opposition to the old communist power structure. He has promised to end Azerbaijan's participation in the Commonwealth of Independent States and consolidate ties with Turkey, with which the republic has close ethnic and linguistic ties. Azerbaijan has been in ferment since last month's loss of the fortress town of Shusha, and the capture by its enemies of a vital strip of land dividing disputed Karabakh from the republic of Armenia. Days after the fall of Shusha, a former communist president, Ayaz Mutalibov, attempted to stage a comeback, only to be quashed by an uprising by the Popular Front. Victory by Mr Elchibey would vindicate the front, which surged in support in 1989 when the conflict with Armenia was going badly, but was brutally crushed in 1990 by the Soviet army.

Yeltsin rules behind his own iron curtain

Russia's president lives in a world as sealed from the media as that inhabited by any of his Soviet predecessors, Mary Dejevsky writes from Moscow

SINCE the days when Boris Yeltsin was struggling for political recognition, he has enjoyed the uncritical support of Russia's newly democratic media, and he still does.

But Mr Yeltsin has not returned the compliment. Nearly a year into power as Russia's first elected president, he lives in a world as sealed from the media as that of the old Kremlin leaders.

Not for the Russian president any question and answer sessions on his White House lawn. With rare exceptions, the only information and images that escape are the information and images that are supposed to escape.

The only reporters he sees belong to a tight and trusted group of four or five, his "lobby" correspondents. It was "not by chance," as the Russians say, that the accusations of drunkenness came after television footage shot in Uzbekistan, outside the monopoly of the Russian trustees.

Reporting Mr Yeltsin's Russia may be increasingly like reporting a "normal" country: the street scenes are vivid, the disasters accessible, the statistics increasingly transparent, and the Moscowite in the metro without fear of the microphone. Reporting Mr Yeltsin and his political

circle is a different matter. The moment a subject touches Mr Yeltsin's immediate entourage, there are telephoned invitations and special lists.

Press officers leave their telephones off the hook, or change their numbers, or refuse information. Often they do not know — how could they? The Yeltsin circle operates for them as well.

Last winter, foreign correspondents were excluded regularly from government briefings. Initially, the excuse was accommodation: too small, no translation. Mostly we found out about them by chance. Then nobody found out about them. They were no longer briefings, just spontaneous chats with the lobby which appeared, in gutted form, from the Interfax news agency. The lobby also has special Kremlin telephone numbers, as Pravda and Tass used to have, for instant access to presidential spokesmen.

Now new filters have been introduced. Russia's economic reforms, it seems, are too finely balanced for the press to be granted access to the facts at source. The government has set up a "council for information coverage of reforms" headed by Mikhail Poltoranin, deputy prime minister, former editor of Moscow's main city paper and long-time Yeltsinite. From now on, our reports of the progress of the reforms will be out of Poltoranin, via Interfax. We must interpret as best we can.

A similar tightening of the information order has taken place in the foreign ministry. You could almost hear the whisper borne on the spring breeze: "There are too many mistakes, too many clarifications, leave no room for interpretation..." The foreign ministry's press operation was reorganised, along lines recommended by Vitali Churkin, the previous press chief, whose reward was to become deputy foreign minister.



Same difference? The old-style Pravda has gone but some of its habits live on in the Yeltsin era

Whereas Mr Churkin had answered for everything: advising the minister's views and overseeing the mechanics of the press operation, his three successors need never meet. The minister's press chief and political adviser is Galina Sidorova, an accomplished foreign political commentator who has made only two appearances in Moscow since her appointment. She shields her minister from gaffes abroad and "spins" for the sophisticated in the West.

In Moscow, regular (rare) briefings are conducted in the oldest and driest of Kremlin styles by Sergei Yastrzhembsky, a young fogey from the central committee, a "speaking Tass". Then there is an invisible chief administrator of the foreign press centre — who can be blamed for practical things that go wrong, and for all the old restrictions on foreign correspondents that still apply.

We still cannot drive our cars more than 20 miles outside Moscow without giving notification of our route 48 hours in advance. We cannot travel elsewhere in Russia without notifying the ministry 24 or 48 hours in advance, depending on the grade of city, and sometimes not even then.

But the regulations are reciprocal, the Russians say. Indeed they are, and the Russian foreign ministry, it seems, perhaps on orders from Mr Yeltsin's office, wants to be seen as the strong successor to its Soviet predecessors, not a soft touch for the richer West. So much for the openness of the post-Soviet age.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hostage release discussed

Beirut: The kidnappers of Heinrich Struëbig and Thomas Kempner, the German hostages, said at the weekend they would release their captives after receiving further assurances on the fate of two Shia terrorists jailed in Germany (All Jaber writes).

Their statement was the first concrete result of the visit to Beirut of Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister. He urged Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian fundamentalist group, to co-operate with President Hrawi of Lebanon. The "Strugglers for Freedom" group affirmed that "the mechanism and framework within which the hostages issue is moving were reasonable and could lead to a satisfactory result".

Tanks attack

Moscow: Georgian forces backed by tanks attacked villages in South Ossetia, killing at least ten people, Tass reported. Two people were killed by Azerbaijani shelling of villages in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. (AP)

UN thwarted

Jomtien, Thailand: Khmer Rouge guerrillas are preventing Dutch marines from crossing the Thai border to begin disarmament Cambodian fighters under a UN peace accord, according to Major Joop Dykstra, a Dutch military spokesman. (Reuters)

Ukraine threat

Kiev: Ukraine will deport Russian military officers who have refused to take an oath of loyalty to the republic, Konstantin Morozov, the defence minister, has told the Ukrainian Officers' Association, according to Kiev radio. (Reuters)

Kabul acts

Kabul: Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the Mujahidin council which takes over from the present caretaker administration, has ordered the raising of a combined mujahidin force to end fighting between Shia and Sunni Muslims. (AFP)

Thais missing

Bangkok: Nearly 800 people remain unaccounted for following the repression by the military of pro-democracy protesters in the Thai capital last month, according to an official who has been charged with compiling a list of missing persons. (AFP)

Air of deceit

Houston: Judges in a Texas cattle contest at Galveston county fair have disqualified Husker, a champion steer weighing half a ton, after deciding that Eric Glover, his 12-year-old owner, injected it with air from a bicycle pump to improve its looks. (Reuters)

Kohl insists Danish vote will speed EC integration

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN



DENMARK'S rejection of the Maastricht treaty will help to speed up European integration and enlargement, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said yesterday. He hoped that the review of the treaty, scheduled for 1996 at the latest, would be brought forward.

He was convinced that there would be no slowing down, but rather an acceleration of the processes leading to more powers for the European parliament and other developments of the Community. He was certain, too, that this month's Community summit in Lisbon would grant membership sooner than planned to Austria, Sweden, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

With German public opinion swinging against European integration, the chancellor is clearly more anxious than ever to hurry ahead. There is strong opposition to the fact that the mark will disappear with monetary union.

A new outcry is looming with the revelation that speed limits are likely to be imposed on Germany's unrestricted motorways from next year under the terms of Maastricht. Although polls show that most Germans accept that speed limits would save lives, the idea that they can be imposed Community-wide by Brussels bureaucrats is anathema.

Build am Sonntag said yesterday that the chancellor has agreed to a maximum limit of 130 kmph (81 mph), at which speed deaths and injuries should drop by 23

to help boost production and economic growth. The average German working week is 37.5 hours and engineering workers have negotiated a 35-hour week from 1995. Proposals to work more are coming from politicians on all sides of the political spectrum. Friedrich Ost, the Christian Democrat chairman of the Bundestag's economic committee, said that it was "sensible and reasonable" to give up a day's holiday and that employers and workers should promptly agree such a "solidarity pact".

The idea was supported by Günther Jansen, an adviser to Björn Engholm, the Social Democrat leader. "Cutting the working week cannot be a taboo subject," he said.

These ideas are an encouragement to the chancellor, who said in a weekend interview with *Welt am Sonntag* that "we cannot go on always living better and always wanting to do less". He repeated his pre-unification promise that eastern Germany would be turned into "a flourishing landscape".

● Copenhagen: A large majority of Danes want to stay in the European Community, despite voters' rejection of the Maastricht treaty, according to a poll for *Berlingske Tidende*. Of those who were asked if Denmark should quit the EC, 81 per cent said "no", against 11 per cent who said "yes" and 8 per cent "don't know". (Reuters)

London move, page 7

Nuclear safety 'funded'

BY ROBIN OAKLEY POLITICAL EDITOR

EASTERN and Central European nations are likely to be offered cash and teams of experts to help to improve safety standards at their crumbling nuclear power stations to avert the risk of another Chernobyl.

The problem was discussed by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and John Major at their meeting in Bonn on Friday after Mr Major's visit the previous week to Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The prime minister is believed to have enlisted the aid of President Bush in ensuring that the question is tackled at the G7 summit in Munich next month.

Mr Major believes that the G7 nations of Japan, Germany, France, Canada, Italy, Britain and America will have to provide cash and nuclear safety specialists to ensure that the Eastern and Central European countries improve safety standards. Longer term, he accepts that they will have to be helped to become less dependent on power stations which do not meet the standards applied in Western Europe and America.

Mr Major believes that there is no need for panic at this stage but he acknowledges that the countries concerned simply do not have the resources to tackle the problems themselves and is telling his allies that action has to be taken "in pretty short order".

East German teenagers stick with unholy orders

The rows of teenagers lining up for their class photo amid the high-rise blocks of Marzahn do their best to look grown-up, the girls putting in unfamiliar lipstick, the boys adopting a stance suited to exhibiting developing biceps.

Unification notwithstanding, the East German tradition of the *Jugendweihe* — the communist equivalent of church confirmation — still holds appeal. More than 80,000 of the east's 14-year-olds are taking part this summer in the ritual.

Walter Ulbricht, then East Germany's leader, introduced the ceremony in 1955 to reduce the allure of the Church to young people. The celebrations took place under the stern gaze of busts of Marx and Lenin, and participants pledged to "fight and work for the noble development of socialism" and "carry on in our adult lives the revolutionary heritage of the Soviet Union". Those who did not attend or insisted on confirmation would often encounter discrimination as students.

Nowadays, the preparation features lectures on sex education, the environment and the parliamentary system — which still remains something of a mystery to east Germans young and old.

There is a solemn ceremony in which the teenagers are pronounced "young adults of the Federal Republic of Germany" and told to "work towards

the true unity of our country as whole and free adults". They are presented with a certificate by a local dignitary (no longer the nearest available communist party secretary) and are treated to a banquet and discotheque by their proud parents.

Karsten Schiller, who takes the *Jugendweihe* class in Marzahn, says the ritual is "a lot more fun than confirmation, and more relevant to a young people in the east who are largely secular. It would be hypocrisy for them to trot off to church for the day when they have no intention of attending again."

She shows an equanimity in coping with the changes around her that eastern adults can only envy. "No one paid much attention to all of that Marxist-Leninist stuff we had to recite. We liked the presents best," Monika says.

Nostalgia is proving hard to root out, as Germany's advertising agencies have found. They have had to adapt campaigns in the east after it became clear that consumers were refusing to succumb to the devices which charm western spenders. Two eastern cigarette firms market their wares with specifically "Ossi" appeal — one with the simple slogan "Made in Dresden", another by showing beauty spots east of the Elbe with the slogan "We know our tobacco".

Britain respects Bush resistance

Major ready to sign biodiversity treaty

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY AT CAMP DAVID, MARYLAND

JOHN Major has told President Bush that Britain expects to sign the controversial biodiversity treaty, conserving plant and animal species, at the Rio Earth summit.

But Mr Major wasted little breath in his talks on Saturday night and yesterday in the presidential retreat at Camp David on trying to persuade President Bush to do the same. The prime minister explained to journalists Mr Bush's unwillingness to sign the biodiversity treaty on the grounds of American property rights, patent laws and technology transfers. These, he believed, were problems which Britain would not have to face.

In the Commons debate on the Earth summit, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said: "We are content with the provisions in the convention for dealing with intellectual property rights. That is not our concern: it is



the concern of the Americans.

Most of the planet's species are concentrated in underdeveloped countries while the know-how and technology to develop them for medical and scientific purposes are mostly in developed countries. To give the poorer nations an incentive to conserve animal

species, plants, mosses, fungi and the like which may contain the potential for exploitation, they want a transfer of funds through royalties on any final product developed from the "genetic resources" of the flora and fauna in their countries. But America is unwilling to impose a penalty on its huge drugs and biodiversity industry by agreeing to formalise such measures.

Mr Major said that any agreement at Rio which did not have the willing acceptance of America was flawed. But he accepted that the domestic political constraints on President Bush in an election year had made it pointless to try to bring him round.

The prime minister, who a year ago was calling the Rio summit the climax of the environmental initiative, now insisted that it was just a start and emphasised the readiness of America to sign the climate change convention, while he criticised the foot-dragging of Third World nations on forestry.

Britain remained nervous about the overall financial implications of the biodiversity treaty. It was still seeking the attachment of a financial protocol limiting the power of the Third World effectively to raise an environmental levy on the industrialised nations at a level of its choice. Failing that, Britain and its allies in Rio might block the coming into operation of the biodiversity treaty by refusing to agree to the rules of conduct, yet to be established for its operation.

The prime minister would like to ensure that money for environmental purposes went to the underdeveloped countries and not to their politicians. But Mr Major found it politically impossible to avoid signing the treaty after Britain had played a significant role in setting up and publicising the summit and its conventions.

Washington: A new poll showed the political fortunes of President Bush plunging to new lows yesterday as top Republicans demanded drastic action to fend off Ross Perot, and the president prepared for what Democrats predicted would be another foreign policy debacle when he visits the Earth summit this week (Martin Fletcher writes).

The Time Magazine/CNN poll gave Mr Perot a lead of 13 points, by far his biggest to date, with 34 per cent support to 24 per cent for both Mr Bush and Bill Clinton, the Democratic nominee. Mr Bush's approval rating dropped seven points in three weeks to just 30 per cent, the lowest of his presidency and one of the lowest ever for an incumbent.

The Time/CNN poll showed 81 per cent of respondents now considered him a "typical politician", 67 per cent believed he would do anything to get re-elected, while just 38 per cent believed that he cared about the average American.

Bush-Major talks, page 1



Brain waves: Hindu priests Hvarananda, left, and Bodisananda meditating on Rio's Flamengo beach at the weekend near where 15,000 non-government representatives are staging the alternative Earth summit

World leaders prepare to scramble for front-row seats at the Rio round table

Michael McCarthy expects population pressure will affect summit politicians trying to sit down and debate this week

PROBABLY the world's biggest table has been built to seat the unprecedented gathering of world leaders who will assemble at the end of this week — and it may not be big enough.

A hollow circle of 41 sections, more than 250ft in diameter, it occupies almost the entire space of the summit room, a windowless concrete chamber, carpeted and walled in soft grey felt, in the Riocentro convention hall 20 miles south of the city.

Last week, 118 chairs were crammed around the table, with little room for any more. Another 118 chairs stood behind. At the moment the number of heads of state and government definitively attending is 142; it may increase. Asked about the discrepancy, a UN official paused and said: "That thought had occurred to me."

As the seating is expected to be in alphabetical order, there may be some very delicate decisions to be taken as to who has to be sacrificed. If we suppose that all bigger countries will be able to keep their places, President Mamedov of Azerbaijan, Sir

Lynden Pindling, prime minister of the Bahamas, and Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman al-Khalifa of Bahrain, form a group where there may well be a scramble for a seat, as do Toflan Edi Alesana, prime minister of Samoa, Germano Riaghi of San Marino and President Miguel dos Anjos da Cunha Lisboa Tróvada of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Once the seating is settled, the conjunctions indicated by the guest list offer fascinating possibilities for conversation and exchange of backgrounds. President Berisha of Albania and President Boudiaf of Algeria, for example, might exchange views on the emerging democratic process, while the host, Fernando Collor de Mello, the former playboy who is now president of Brazil, will doubtless be satisfied at sitting next to the world's richest man, the Sultan of Brunei. Whether he turns

quite as assiduously to his neighbour on the other side, President Masire of Botswana, remains to be seen.

President Conte of Guinea and President Vieira of Guinea-Bissau can chat over common regional problems, while President Conzelmann of Hungary can show old-fashioned eastern European courtesy towards President Finnbogadottir of Iceland, while discussing common pros and cons of being small states on the edges of the European Community.

John Major will have Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine on one side if the invitation to the United Arab Emirates remains unaccepted, while on the other he will have to discreetly lean behind the back of President Mtwinyi of Tanzania (United Republic of) for a quiet word with George Bush.

Hardest done by in the seating arrangements would

seem to be Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, doubtless seeking at the summit to extend his influence with the world's most senior figures. Mr Bush is far away and at the moment M Delors will be seated between President Kilinga of the Central African Republic and President Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro of Cape Verde.

Sao Paulo: The summit's sister exhibition, EcoBrasil '92, displaying the latest environmental technology from the tiniest and most obscure pollution-analysing device to giant natural gas-powered garbage trucks opened here at the weekend (Reuter reports).

The fair, which features some 400 companies from 21 nations, is considered a showcase for business and technical solutions to the environmental problems debated at the Earth summit.

In between, there are solar-powered air conditioners, windmills, information on a Canadian waterbomber plane for use in putting out forest fires, even the latest high-tech rubbish bins.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gorbachev elected to green post

Rio de Janeiro: Mikhail Gorbachev was elected head of the new International Green Cross, the environmental equivalent of the Red Cross, at a meeting here yesterday.

About 270 parliamentarians and spiritual leaders attending the parliamentary Earth summit, organised alongside the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, voted for the former Soviet president to head the new organisation which aims to offer nature the same support that the Red Cross offers victims of war and disaster.

Mr Gorbachev proposed an International Green Cross two years ago, and his name was put forward as president about a month ago. Aiko Matsumura of Japan, the parliamentary Earth summit president, said. In a message to the meeting, Mr Gorbachev regretted that he had been unable to attend but said he was "ready to participate most actively" in the organisation's work. (AFP)

US accused

Paris: Segolène Royal, the French environment minister, accused America of blocking attempts to protect the environment by refusing to sign the treaty to preserve plant and animal species. "It does not have the right to apply the brakes." (Reuter)

Children testify

Rio de Janeiro: Street children here testified to MPs from around the world about the hunger and pain that are part of their everyday lives. They also spoke of their fear of police and of death squads that kill children regarded as nuisances. (Reuter)

Ban demanded

London: The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has launched a national campaign for a permanent ban on commercial whaling before the International Whaling Commission's annual meeting this month in Glasgow. (Reuter)

Treaty backed

Paris: Brice Lalonde, the former French environment minister who left the ruling socialists to form a new green movement, has urged ecologists to vote for ratification of the Maastricht treaty in the planned referendum in France. (Reuter)

Prepared to pay

Washington: A majority of people in some of the poorest countries say they would pay more for what they buy to protect the environment, according to a 22-nation poll carried out by Gallup. Only India and Turkey gave priority to economic growth. (AP)

Noise reduced

Geneva: The number of people directly affected by aircraft noise is just 5 per cent of those affected in the 1970s, the International Air Transport Association has told the Earth summit. But it sees little possibility of further reducing noise levels.

THE TIMES

Lives Remembered

Excitement... intrigue... eccentricity... All elements of a fascinating new book, 'Lives Remembered'

culled from The Times obituaries columns of 1991. Tyrants rub shoulders with pop stars, royalty with politicians, in an extraordinary parade of the great, the good and the villainous.



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Apartheid still makes the running

For many in South Africa, things have scarcely changed in the 2½ years since Pretoria renounced "separate development", Michael Hamlyn writes

as part of a programme to acclimatise athletes for events abroad.

"Their coach was told when they arrived: 'We don't take these types here.' He asked: 'Do you mean blacks?' The caretaker responded: 'Yes, that is exactly what I mean.' The caretaker's wife said later: 'I know things are changing in South Africa, but they haven't changed here. Or if they have, we haven't been notified.'

A measure of that change is that the story made news in Johannesburg's *Business Day*, and the chairman of the trust running the flats was embarrassed enough to deny the existence of such rules and to declare: "It has all been a most unfortunate misunderstanding."

There was less misunderstanding about the story of Anna Timba, a young woman from Mozambique who, fleeing the Renamo rebellion in her village, fell into the hands of a *mariano*, or slave trader, who offered to take her to South Africa and find her a job. He took her to KaNgwane, a semi-independent homeland in the east of

South Africa. He sold her. She ran away, but went back to him. He sold her again. She was raped. Eventually she fled to a centre which she had heard took care of refugees. Now she teaches at a nursery school for refugee children. She is anxious about her sister, Wilhelmina, who was also brought to South Africa by a man claiming that Anna had sent him to fetch her.

The slave trade, the *Weekly Mail* says, is still a booming business. Since the newspaper first exposed the trade a year ago, having itself bought two young women for 200 rand each, none of the *marianos* has been prosecuted, despite evidence being handed to the police.

Such stories are only of prurient interest in northern Johannesburg. Much more real there is the threat that a crowd of black squatters from the homelands is likely to be rehoused close by. Residents are banding together in associations to fight the administration's plans with court cases and, it is dasky hinted, with guns if necessary.

One organisation, the

Garden Triangle Action Group, led by a right-wing white separatist called Robert van Tonder, has given a warning of the possibility of bloodshed if its "militant allies" become involved over the rehousing of 4,000 families near by.

Even some middle-class blacks are anxious about their neighbourhoods. Alexandra East Bank Residents' Association, on the fringes of the seething Alexandra township, is complaining about a plan by the Sandton town council to set up 1,700 plots for informal housing near by. "Properties will be devalued, and the quality of life will suffer," Bulu Phalatsi, the association's chairman, complained.

Another sign of the unchanging nature of South Africa's society is that each week a list of censored publications appears. Restraints are a bit slacker than they used to be. For example, Adelaide Tambo's *Preparing for Power: Oliver Tambo Speaks* has been removed from the "undesirable" and "illegal to possess" lists this week. *Gay Roots — 20 Years of Gay Sunshine*, by Winston Leyland, has caught the censor's disapproval and been placed firmly on the undesirable list. *Womb with Views*, produced by Mother Courage Press, may only be distributed in sealed plastic wrapping.

Hong Kong chief's farewell to Peking

Lord Wilson, the departing governor of Hong Kong, arrived in Peking yesterday to say a farewell that is unlikely to be particularly fond.

He was greeted by Li Ping, director of China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, as an "old friend". In the past, however, the two men have frequently held talks in an atmosphere of open confrontation.

In the run up to the governor's visit, Peking has attacked comments by Alastair Goodlad, the junior foreign office minister responsible for Hong Kong, urging a faster pace of democratic reform in the colony.

President Yeltsin spent the weekend in his home city of Yekaterinburg, combining a visit to his sick mother, who has had a heart attack, with attempts to placate local officials on his economic reforms.

President de Klerk of South Africa arrived in Singapore from Tokyo for a two-day visit aimed at improving bilateral economic and trade ties.

Smolky Robinson's half-sis-

ter is suing him, saying he cheated her of profits from songs on which she collaborated. Rose Ella Jones claimed that the soul singer stopped paying royalties.

Country singer Hank Williams Jr and his wife, Mary Jane Williams, a former model, are expecting their first child.

The Zulu king Goodwill Zwelidini, 43, is to marry Mame Mchiza, 19, a Xhosa, in an inter-tribal ceremony that could help curb black political rifts, the black *City Press* newspaper reported.

The Pope, denouncing the "horrors, tragedies and deaths" of civil war, urged Angolans to unite for peace after 16 years of conflict.

President Aylwin said in Santiago in an interview published in the newspaper *El Mercurio* that the former East German leader Erich Honecker was no longer welcome at the Chilean embassy in Moscow and would have to leave.

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Ibuleve in newspapers.

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**PEOPLE
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Note to Major - not so fast

No world leader can ignore the present
populist upsurge, says Peter Riddell

John Major looks increasingly the odd man out among world leaders. He is the only one to have faced the electorate recently and won. Ruling parties have lost ground in either national or local elections in France, Germany and Italy. George Bush is in growing difficulties in America; and Brian Mulroney is limping along in Canada. Political elites are in trouble almost everywhere in face of a populist upsurge.

Politics remains local, or at least national, rather than transnational. But there are common themes. In almost all recent elections, the conventional wisdom of the Establishment has been challenged, and in several cases rejected. Like earlier waves of populism, the protests in many countries partly reflect economic failures, high unemployment and a squeeze on living standards. But what is happening now goes further: opposition parties are often not benefiting from the unpopularity of governments.

Voters are turning away from the existing alternatives. New parties have sprung up, or old fringe groups have flourished, in protest at a wave of immigrants and a redistribution of taxpayers' money in favour of newcomers. What Professor J.K. Galbraith has called the contented majority in Western industrialised countries is no longer the silent majority. In Eastern Europe, where the majority is discontented, the strains of transition from communism have been expressed as nationalism and regionalism, as in Czechoslovakia.

The Danish vote against Maastricht was part of this anti-establishment trend, what Denmark's foreign minister described as "a fist in the face". The outcome may have been close but it was in fact the near-unanimous recommendation of the country's main political leaders, of employers, unions and the media. The opponents of the Maastricht deal were, as in Britain, a mixture of the hard-left, anti-nuclear and environmental groups, and right-wing populists. But that would not have been sufficient to defeat the treaty without the votes of nearly two-thirds of the supporters of the Social Democrats, Denmark's largest party.

The motives of the opponents of the treaty were, of course, diverse, but they amounted to a judgment that the politicians had moved too far ahead of public opinion. The second, or rather delayed first, thoughts in Germany about economic and monetary union similarly reflect the growing popular opinion that politicians in Bonn have been moving too fast, especially in view of the underestimated costs of unification.

In America, the many grassroots supporters of Ross Perot are rejecting political leaders and parties in Washington as much as specific policies. Neither the president nor Congress have seemed to be doing their job. Divided party control has produced stalemate

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

over pressing economic and domestic difficulties. Mr Perot, the can-do billionaire, is seen by many disillusioned voters as the leader to break the logjam. They do not seem worried that he might brush aside many of the checks and balances in the American constitution. Several previously secure members of Congress have also faced tight primary races, and some have lost. Quite a few incumbents are very nervous about November's elections.

The fault lines of politics are widely under strain. So far, the earthquakes have been no more than middling on the electoral Richter scale. A few careers have been broken and some cracks have appeared in prevailing opinions. Independent candidates and new parties have been one response; referendums can be another. Normally, these are held only when

'Mr Major could be left defending a position after many of his MPs have abandoned it'

as abortion in Ireland.

Britain has so far been largely immune from this populist uprising, apart perhaps from a revival of republicanism triggered by the royal family's descent into soap opera. Yet Britain is not perfect. We have not exactly escaped the recession, or worries about public services and crime. The Tories won on April 9 not only because the country still mistrusted Labour's ability to run the economy, but because voters believed there had already been a change of government. The popular discontent of the late 1980s had achieved its main aim: Margaret Thatcher and the poll tax had gone. Mr Major was seen as a new leader heading a new government; few blamed him for the recession, despite his responsibility as a Treasury minister.

But Mr Major is building up a record, to be defended and attacked. On Europe, his policy may be ahead of his own party, and of the public. He is proud of what he achieved at Maastricht and wants to preserve as much as possible, while leaving the door open to the Danes. His stance is tactically right, not just because the concessions won at Maastricht could be lost, but because it puts Britain in a favourable position if the treaty is renegotiated. Mr Major, however, could be left defending a position after many of his MPs have abandoned it. Even an instinctive whip risks losing touch. By the next election he could be as vulnerable as the other leaders he will meet in Rio this week.

Alan Hamilton on the precedents for retribution by aggrieved members of the royal family

Forms of redress

Royal commentators from Bagehot onwards have warned of the danger of admitting too much light into the mystic temple of monarchy, lest the glare fade the magic like sunshine on an ancient tapestry. Since the arrival of Diana as a member of the royal cast, light-shedding has become an industry, although the great majority of books provide little more than a faint glow of heat, generated from precious few facts.

The royal family has historically taken a dim view of being written about. Leigh Hunt and his brother went to prison for libelling the prince regent in their newspaper *The Examiner*, and even Marion Crawford's seemingly innocuous disclosures about the lives of her charges, the little princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, caused her to be cast for ever into outer darkness by her former royal employers.

Prince Albert, an otherwise amiable fellow, became much exercised in 1849 when he heard that a magazine had obtained etchings of him and Victoria had made of their children. He successfully obtained an injunction to prevent publication. In 1910 George V took the rare step of instituting libel proceedings against a journalist who had published a story claiming the

king, as a young naval officer, had secretly married in Malta and fathered a child. The tale was proved false, and its hapless perpetrator spent a year in prison.

The present reign has been reluctant to use the courts, but in 1983 the Queen was moved to action by a story provided to *The Sun* by a former valet and headlined "Queen Koo's romps at the Palace", which claimed to disclose elements in the private lives of the then Prince Andrew and Koo Stark, an actress. The palace obtained an injunction. *The Sun* made an out-of-court settlement of £4,000, and the Queen's private secretary generously suggested that the money be donated to the Newspaper Press Fund, a charity for indigent journalists.

When, three years ago, the same newspaper published a private photograph taken at Balmoral and including Princess Eugenie in a royal group, the Palace once again went to its solicitor, Sir Matthew Farrer. The charge was breach of copyright, and the newspaper settled out of court for



V & A: a successful injunction

£100,000. A similar weapon was used, too late, against *The Sun* when it published a letter from the Duke of Edinburgh to the commandant-general of the Royal Marines about Prince Edward's military training.

One of the most revealing royal books of recent years has been the

memoirs of Stephen Barry, the Prince of Wales's former valet, who has since died of Aids. Intimate, presumed accurate, and generally affectionate, it was published in the United States, and in Australia as the Waleses were arriving for an official visit. But it has never appeared in Britain; the publishers were warned off by the Palace with the threat of an injunction on the ground that Barry had breached the secrecy clause of his employment contract.

Palace advisers, and no doubt the Prince of Wales himself, have been wondering what, if anything, they could do to stop publication of Andrew Morton's addition to the royal bookshelf. There appears to be no question of breach of copyright; rather than go below stairs, Mr Morton, being a more assiduous reporter than some who plough his furrow, has interviewed members of the princess's family and several of her close friends.

What would make any legal action difficult is the obvious operation from the Spencer family, who gave photographs in

return for a donation to Turning Point, one of the princess's charities. They may not have known what sort of book the pictures were going to end up in: whether the princess herself guessed how the book would be presented when and if she gave approval for her friends to talk to Mr Morton, remains unanswered. She is either very cunning or very naïve.

Co-operation also seems to rule out any successful approach to the Press Complaints Commission. The Calcutt committee reviewing journalistic intrusion briefly considered the royal question, but decided no specific rules should or could be applied, although the case for the commission's intervention seems ever stronger. Libel cases require the parties to wash dirty linen in the witness box. It is unlikely that any member of the royal family, or anyone closely connected, would wish to do that, although the temptation must daily increase.

On the evidence so far, Mr Morton's book is thinner gruel than the pre-publicity machine suggested. But by concentrating available knowledge and giving it a degree of veracity, it has shown a fierce beam on a problem many would regard as having a better chance of solution in the dark.

All eyes on promised lands

The mass migrations of the poor have
hardly begun, writes Bernard Levin

Another knell sounds. President Bush announces that the American coast-guard will no longer pick up people found in the cockleshell vessels fleeing the horrors of Haiti, except for those in boats which are in "imminent danger".

That qualification is a grim but unintended irony: practically all the Haitian cockleshell navy is in imminent danger, whether of drowning, imprisonment or starvation. At the same time, the Vietnamese who fled to Hong Kong and freedom from their brutal communist regime are now to be repatriated, whether by agreement, force or trickery. In Singapore, the custom for many years has been to push the boatloads seeking asylum out of Singapore waters to die. In Eastern Europe, the migrants seeking a new life lift their eyes to the West, where they believe the new life is to be found; their numbers increase daily, and from a stream are becoming a torrent.

Persecution, restriction, starvation; three good reasons for a refugee to want asylum. Through the centuries, such seeking and finding went on. But there were other kinds of wanderlust: again and again, there have been migrations based on the idea of betterment.

For a very long time, in many places, there were no bars or barriers to peaceful movement; when the French Huguenots fled to England after the Revocation nobody tried to stop them, though there were complaints against their outlandish clothes and customs, and mutterings about the incomes taking the citizens' jobs. By the time my grandparents made the trek from the Pale, such immigrants, however strange their language, their clothes and their behaviour, were welcomed; not for their own sake but because they were useful to the boom that had elevated the previous lowest layer. (My grandfather instantly became

a self-taught tailor; I can tell you.)

That has been the most familiar pattern through hundreds of years. Only now has the very basis of refuge and asylum, of migration and integration, been challenged. To be sure, there has been resentment and worse; there sticks in my mind a phrase from a book about the Jews who were desperate to get away from Nazi Germany; a civil servant had muttered his distaste at having to do such work with the words, "Oh, those wailing Jews!"

Never mind. Britain saved many, and the debt has been well repaid. But now, as I say, something very different is happening. Think of a Russian, free from communism but by no means free from poverty and hunger. Think of an Indian, facing many more generations before his country can house his people, even very badly. Think of Africa; no, don't, the idea has not yet taken root there, but it will in time. The idea is simply this: because of the way modern communications have made almost any part of the world intelligible (indeed visible) to any other part, giant vistas of prosperity have opened before people who only a generation or two would have had no idea that the rest of the world was paved with gold.

The result is the sound of tocsins ringing throughout the advanced — that is, the well fed, well housed, well employed — world. Let me be morbid for a moment: imagine people in a movement, more or less evenly spread through the territories that were once the Soviet Union, and who (perhaps by leadership from charismatic figures, perhaps by population pressure on resources) decide to make a substantial claim on Western prosperity. The population is something like 280 million; suppose a tenth of those begin to move purposefully westwards; what precisely would or could the world do? Well, what did the world do when Genghis Khan was on the



move? It fought as well as it could with the resources it had. We have no plans to fight, if only because my macabre scenario seems too absurd to think about seriously. But we do not need anything like it to see the reality concealed in the absurdity. Enoch Powell's famous image — "I see the Tiger foaming with much blood" — has, happily, not come about (not that he will admit it), and as time goes by it recedes ever further. But there are a thousand forms of *Kulturkampf*, some peaceful and some violent.

I cannot believe that the poor of the earth will be willing to remain poor indefinitely; I do not even believe that the poor of the earth will for much longer be content with the speed at which their impoverishment is being alleviated. (South Africa is a special case, and no one could prophesy with any conviction what will happen when the whites are a small minority in a black state. One possibility, though, is that the slowness of rising prosperity will combine with

the pent-up fury of decades to produce a massive pogrom.)

Far away, the United States, still self-contained, is not greatly troubled by the thought of a stampede towards the riches of the richest country on earth. True, the wetbacks are a problem, but in truth a tiny one. Beyond Mexico, however, is another giant continent; what happens even to the United States when population, let alone envy, begins to squeeze the toothpaste from the bottom?

We really are a global village; and in every pretty thatched cottage (or kraal, for that matter) there is a television set, on which we can see how the other half lives. The price, of course, is that the other half can see us living. I cannot think of any reason why the above scenario will not materialise, once there is enough understanding of what the world is like among people who have had no such understanding.

Which brings me back to the refugees. I know of no microscope sufficiently delicate to distinguish with any certainty between an economic migrant and a refugee, particularly since the betterment-seeker may well have a legitimate fear of retribution at home, and the *bona fide* outlaw might be thinking of a useful business he could set up in the refugee country. And what rough beast... Whatever we thought the beast was, we surely never guessed that it would turn out to be the Golden Horde in a new and ill-fitting guise. Nevertheless, we fiddle with the EC while the steppes burn, and burn with a rising anger.

Lebensraum, Hitler called it; not a very propitious recollection. Any way, there is enough room for all to live. But how to live, and where, and with what, and with what massive quantity of resentment — these are the urgent questions. I am by no means sure that the world has answers.



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Tracey, who organised my itinerary, slipped memory in a noisy, cheerful cafe in Perth. "You're lucky," she smiled, "it's been raining."

"Lucky?" I said. "For much of the year north-western Australia can look almost like a desert. Port Hedland, where you're flying tomorrow, is often parched, dry, and brown. But they've had a fair bit of rain recently. It'll be sunny and green — almost like England." She looked up. Possibly she had heard my teeth grinding. I love deserts. I thought most of Australia was a desert. That's why I had come. "Oh good," I said, "I want to be kangaroos."

"Everywhere." Not quite like England, then, thank God. "And emus?" "All over the place. Quite possibly dingos, too," she added, anticipating my next question. "though I can't promise you a giant lizard."

We flew to Port Hedland. A nice chap called Tim was waiting with a welcoming smile. "You're lucky," he said as we climbed into the Land Cruiser. "It's been raining."

All over the scrubland, from Port Hedland to Wittenoom, the grey-brown Australian bush was covered in a green carpet. Flowers blossomed. The sun shone. By the side of our dirt road dozens of kinds of acacia bloomed as thick and yellow as though Bournemouth town council were tending the display. It went on for 150 miles. It was glorious. My jaw clenched.

"The gorges will be in full flow," said Tim. "It's the rain. Sometimes they can look so dry and desolate, but now it'll be like Switzerland — waterfalls, cascades..."

"Will there be giant bats?" (I had done my homework.) "Yes. The bats are here. It's the rain, you know — brings the foliage and insects. The bats like that. I'm glad the bats like that: it's an ill wind..."

The gorges were spectacular. "But just imagine," said Tim, "how cool and inviting they look when it's hot and dry and you're panting for water and a swim. I shut my eyes and dreamed of the Atacama, where it never rains."

At Wittenoom that night we relaxed with a beer and wondered whether it was warm enough to barbecue outdoors. At least you could see the Southern Cross. "All so cool and green," breathed Anne, a friend of Tim's. "You probably think it's usually like this. You don't realise how!"

"I know," I said. On round the coast, to Dampier, where Heather, a hearty soul, was waiting for us. Dampier I had read about, and imagined to be a thirsty, salt-caked plain by the Indian Ocean. Huge salt reservoirs, mountains of industrial salt, monster bulldozers, and a great rusty jetty where trainloads of iron ore from the hills shunted, clanking, towards the ocean-going ore carriers anchored, pitching, in an iron-stained sea. Cracked lips, hot winds. "Just look at it," said Heather.

"Doesn't it remind you of Ireland? Green pasture as far as the eye can see. I've never seen it like this before. You're..."

"Lucky?" I said. At Exmouth we were even luckier. It was actually raining. Exmouth had six inches of rain in three days. Australians went out in shorts and just stood there, marvelling. "We're out on holiday for a week," said an Australian fellow to me. "Aren't we lucky — to catch this!"

When it rains, north-west Australians get so excited they close all their roads. We were lucky, therefore, to reach Mount Augustus. The story of how we were nearly swept away by the River Gascoyne must await another occasion. But we arrived safe at this magnificent 2,000ft rock. I had imagined a vast red lump, shimmering beneath a merciless sky in a desert plain. But Mount Augustus's head was in the rain clouds. "An amazing sight!" said the warden. "Get a photo of that!"

We drove across a waste of bush back to Geraldton. Do you remember those huge "lakes" in your childhood maps of Australia, with dotted blue lines around them? Ever since my geography teacher explained that these were lakes only sometimes, perhaps once a century, I have longed to experience the dry, flat oceans of sunbaked clay. I reached "lake" Austin. Blue water sparkled for miles. "Good God," said an Australian.

"I know," I said, "aren't I lucky?"

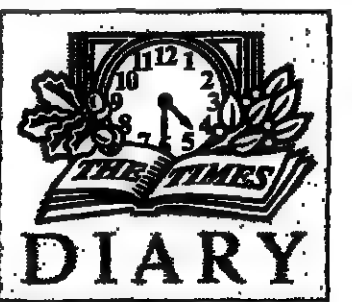
Gossip at the gallop

POLO was the last thing on most spectators' minds at the Dunhill Queen's Cup in Windsor Great Park yesterday. Despite a thrilling match at Ellerslie, White beat Pendell in the final, all eyes were on Camilla Parker Bowles, her husband Andrew and their son Tom, whose godfather is the Prince of Wales. The Parker Bowles, putting behind them the speculation that reached a giddy pitch in yesterday's newspapers, were guests of the Queen in the royal box. In a show of solidarity, husband and wife stayed together all afternoon, stopping only to talk to close friends. They were supported by Mr and Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson and Mrs Kerry Packer, and shepherded around by Lord Douro who was the soul of discretion.

Others were more outspoken. "It's just the biggest soap opera ever," said Joan Collins. Jilly Cooper, whose bestselling novel *Polo* has given her an entrée to the world of chukkas, voiced the concern felt by many at the match. "I am heartbroken. It is awful to face this sort of press coverage, as I know only too well. This is crucifying them and they are hurting dreadfully."

Support came from other sources. Waterstones in Kensington High Street is refusing to stock the book that has stoked the rumours. *Diana: Her True Story* by Andrew Morton has been labelled unfair, unjust and untrue by the shop's manager Dane Howell. "Our shop is close to Kensington Palace and I don't think it would be on for us to sell this book when our customers include the Duke of Gloucester," he says.

Despite the controversy, Prince Charles was showing few signs of



concern as he played polo for his Tramontana team at Cowdray Park, Sussex, yesterday. He spent Saturday evening at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, watching *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Honourable seamen

HAVING denied their existence for decades, the Russians are finally honouring the seamen who ran the gauntlet of German U-boats in the northern convoys to Murmansk in the last war. Later this summer the Bank of the Russian Federation will commission a three-rouble coin to mark the 50th anniversary of the Arctic convoys. The coin, made of copper nickel, will be legal tender. On one side it will show the symbol of the tsars, the double-headed eagle. The other side will show the British, American and now defunct Soviet flags. Few of the 400,000 coins are likely to reach the Russian public. They are expected to be snapped up by capitalist collectors as soon as they are minted.

Art in adversity

PATRONAGE of the arts has tended to be the preserve of well-heeled socialites, but Nalga is doing its best to redress the balance. Each outgoing president of the

union is expected to commission a work of art, and tomorrow night sees Rita Donaghy in the role of Lady Bountiful at the Theatre Royal Stratford East for the first night of *A Better Day*, the play she commissioned when she was president in 1990.

Sheila Yeger, its author, has written a musical celebration of the life and work of Keir Hardie. Yeger acknowledges the help she received from Caroline Benn, Tony Benn's wife, whose biography of Hardie is to be published this autumn. "Caroline allowed me to read the biography and some of her source material. It was an act of great generosity."

● Repossession is not the preserve of hard-up householders. Whole governments can find themselves at the mercy of the bailiffs. Somalia has been forced to hand over its London embassy in several places and temporarily sever diplomatic ties with Britain after the flow of funds from Mogadishu dried up and bills were left unpaid. The Foreign Office says no Somali diplomats are left in the building and the ambassador no longer acts as Somalia's representative.

Home bass

THE Boyan Ensemble, the choir from Kiev, has been rescued from the ignominy of singing for its supper by the people of Malmesbury. Bureaucratic wrangling in Moscow had left the renowned choir one step away from busking on the streets after it arrived in Britain five days late, missing the World Choirs Concert in Cardiff on May 25. Since then the members have toured in a battered bus singing where they can in return for a hot meal and a bed for the night.

The hand of friendship has now been extended by the Malmesbury

Preservation Trust in Wiltshire, which heard about the Ukrainian choir's plight at the weekend. Councillor Tim Tyler, last year's mayor of Malmesbury, has arranged to put the choir up in the town's monastery, which dates



from 1580, in return for a concert at Abbey Church on June 16. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to extend their friendship to the choir and at the same time enjoy their magnificent music," says Tyler. There will be a collection at the concert to help raise the choir's fare home and with 23 one-way tickets to Kiev to fund, the people of Malmesbury are being urged to dig deep.

● Having presided over the honours list that elevated many of his former colleagues to the House of Lords, John Major has the opportunity of becoming Baron Major of Huntingdon. The feudal barony and lordship of the manor of Huntingdon, the prime minister's constituency, comes up for sale on Wednesday at Stationers Hall in London, and is expected to fetch more than £40,000. Medieval holders of the title had the right to raise troops and collect taxes, activities, alas, that hold no novelty for the prime minister.

IN BRIEF

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POLITICS OR GOSSIP?

"It let loose for a time every tongue and pen in England," wrote Cobden. Hazlitt agreed: "It was the only question I have ever known that excited a thorough popular feeling. It struck roots into the heart of the nation; it took possession of every house and cottage in the kingdom." The question was the state of the marriage of the then heir to the throne, the Prince Regent. In any constitutional system in which heredity plays a part, such marriages combine public concern and prudence in potent measure. Drawing a boundary between prudence and concern is not easy.

Recent revelations in a number of newspapers about the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales are prurient. Other newspapers, lacking their own material, have used the Pecksniffian gambit of repeating every detail of the "allegations" but deploring their dissemination in leading articles. Yet others have left columnists to convey the salacious tale. All that can be said in defence of this practice is that, when every newsstand and news bulletin has the story, readers expect to be told something; how much is a matter of taste. Wholly to ignore what has "loosed every tongue", and which might theoretically involve public policy, risks turning discretion to censorship.

That this most famous marriage is not happy is as well known to those who see them in public as to those who know them privately. The relevance of this to their public duties is at present negligible. The royal family is a robust institution. For two centuries it has seen colourful characters, turbulent marriages and constant gossip. The strength of the British constitution lies as much in surviving the monarchy as in benefiting from it. The line of succession has been crooked since the Norman conquest, usually as a result of marital misadventure. Monarchy is neither necessary nor sufficient to a democratic constitution. But in Britain it delivers a stable and dignified head of state, which is no mean thing.

The Queen has worked assiduously at this, and her son will doubtless do so too. His character and public demeanour suggest he is well suited to the job. That his marriage should be unhappy is a personal misfortune but not a political or constitutional crisis. If it were to lead to divorce, misfortune would become tragedy, but not a constitutional one.

Divorce is sad, but for thousands it can be the beginning of a new life. In this case it would not "endanger" the succession: these are not the Middle Ages. So much for the constitutional significance of the present marriage.

The rest is monumental gossip, and as such raises quite other questions. The "fairytale marriage" of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981 invited eternal scrutiny. But even royalty is entitled to its privacy. The disclosure of sleeping arrangements, of past illnesses, of personal friendships and intimate squabbles appears to go far beyond the bounds not just of privacy but of common decency and good taste. Many appear to contravene both spirit and letter of the code of practice on privacy agreed by the national press: at least some peep from the Press Complaints Commission might be in order.

The excuse of the authors and newspapers concerned is that this particular case is different in that the princess was a willing party to the revelations. Many of her closest friends did talk about her illness, some on the record. She donated her own and family pictures to the author. Nobody involved has contradicted the essence of the disclosures. This is thus no ordinary case of press intrusion. The princess seems to have decided to air her grievances through a well-oiled conduit. When a public figure tells intimate secrets to friends being interrogated by such as Andrew Morton, naivety is no defence. The prince may have a right to privacy separate from his wife's actions, but the world's press is unlikely to stuff its ears with wax when such a siren is calling.

The couple seem tragically bereft of good advice. Their recent, publicly separate visits to the Middle East were extraordinary. They still lead lives more suited to the era of Queen Mary than of a modern working family. Their routine puts them constantly in the public glare. Their handling of the unavoidable curiosity of the press is amateur. Their refusal to use any legal redress against lies, defamations and breaches of confidentiality may once have been *noblesse oblige*. It adds further strain to a clearly distressed marriage. Common sense, not to mention personal dignity, would now suggest a determined withdrawal of both prince and princess from the public eye, to resolve their marriage one way or another.

Disclosures about the royal family

From the Vice Chancellor of the University of Buckingham

Sir, I will no longer buy *The Sunday Times*. I hope many others will do the same. The reason for this is straightforward. In sharp contrast to *The Times* they are serialising a book which simply panders to the weakest characteristic in human nature — Schadenfreude, or joy in the misfortunes of others.

Even if it was right to publish such a book, its accuracy is questionable, to say the least, and cannot be tested in court as the royal family naturally feel unable to defend themselves by suing for libel. One of the last cases of this kind concerned my grandmother, Lady Napier: *Rex v. Mills*, 1911.

The most important point, however, is that this book goes beyond the pale in standards of decency and can only serve to undermine the monarchy.

Our Queen commands the immense respect and affection of the nation. She has made an important contribution to the unity and stability of our country.

The heir to the throne has given inspired leadership, particularly in environmental matters ranging from architecture and planning to the countryside and nature.

The Princess of Wales has demonstrated that she would make a wonderful queen with her great sense of duty, her deep interest in people and her real concern for social problems such as drug addiction and AIDS.

They both contribute much to the nation. They complement each other in every way. They will make a fine king and queen.

I do not know, but can only imagine, the strain imposed upon a couple in such an unnatural life. But two things are certain. First, that the nation must make plain their revulsion for the vultures who have gone beyond the common standards of decency and have put an intolerable strain upon the Prince and Princess.

Secondly, we all pray, with respect and affection, that the Prince and Princess of Wales can give the nation the lead in showing strength of unity in their marriage and set an example which others may follow.

With their different talents, and with the prayers of the nation behind them, they will command the full support of the country when eventually the Prince becomes king.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
University of Buckingham,
Buckinghamshire MK18 1EG.
June 7.

Pause, for thought

From Professor John Faulkner

Sir, Francis Cornford, the eminent Cambridge philosopher, once remarked that there is no finer sight in the English countryside than an academic senate baying in hot pursuit of a comma.

At the risk of invoking his wrathful wrath, I note that consistent reading of *The Times* for the past two months suggests the existence of an editorial decree that whenever a sentence begins with "however" (itself a sin to certain purists), this word should never be followed immediately by that foxy mark.

However, I disagree. But there's a snag. However I disagree, I suspect that my protest will prove ineffective.

Yours ever, however,
JOHN FAULKNER,
58 Maids Causeway, Cambridge.
May 31.

Unesco grant

From Sir Denis Forman and Mr Leslie Woodhead

Sir, Your Diary of May 29 refers to a \$7,000 Unesco grant to cover the travel expenses of four South American film-makers to the International Festival of Ethnographic Film to be held in Manchester next September.

These delegates are Amerindians who work with current audio-visual technology to preserve the traditions and political rights of their own communities. Their contribution is planned as central to the festival.

Far from confirming "the worst fears of Unesco's critics", this support should indicate to the organisation's detractors that it is involved actively and appropriately in projects of international value.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS FORMAN,
LESLIE WOODHEAD,
Granada Television,
Quay Street, Manchester.
June 4.

'Rave in the nave'

From Mrs Claire Robinson

Sir, The dean of Ely Cathedral ("Ely rocks to rave in the nave", report, June 3) should go and look at the inscription over the Monk's Door on the south side of that beautiful church which reminds those emerging: *domus mea domus orationis* ("my house is a house of prayer") and then ponder the rest of that verse from Matthew 21 — something about a den of thieves, or was it a holy theme park?

Yours faithfully,
CLAIRE ROBINSON,
85 College Road, Framlingham,
Nr Woodbridge, Suffolk.
June 4.

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leasehold reform and estate control

From Mr R. G. Armstrong

Sir, Mr Ian McCulloch argues (letter, June 1) that the government's proposals for leasehold reform offend the fundamental principle that they will "disturb pre-existing contractual rights which have been freely entered into". Not many current flat leaseholders will agree.

Those seeking to purchase a flat in England and Wales have effectively no option but to do so on a long leasehold basis. Since it is almost unheard of for a new leaseholder to successfully negotiate alterations to the terms of his "standard" lease, to describe that situation as one which has been "freely entered into" is therefore a travesty.

Many leaseholders' problems have been exacerbated in recent years because the original landlords have "sold out" to companies, often based in obscure foreign parts, which have no scruples about abusing the system, in some instances acting illegally to extract the maximum financial return from their investment.

When the follow-up commonhold legislation is on the statute book, we shall see for the very first time in England and Wales the operation of a system of true flat ownership which should be the best guarantee of good estate management.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. ARMSTRONG
(Head of Legal Services),
The Building Societies Association,
3 Savile Row, W1.
June 2.

From Mrs Patricia Loder Dyer

Sir, Leasehold enfranchisement, as already available under the 1967 Leasehold Reform Act, was brought to the attention of the European Commission on Human Rights by the Grosvenor Estate in 1979.

The Commission's opinion, supported by the European Court, upheld the 1967 legislation and considered that Parliament was entitled to form the view that the long leasehold system generated injustice and that tenants had a moral entitlement to enfranchisement; and that it was in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICIA LODER DYER,
68 Cadogan Place, SW1.
June 1.

From Mrs Fay L. Landau

Sir, One of the most unfair provisions in many leases is that should the premises be destroyed the insurance money will then be paid to the landlord. Admittedly the landlord covenants to rebuild, but that is of little practical use if some of the lessees are in their eighties or nineties

Nigeria hostage

From the High Commissioner for Nigeria

Sir, In your report (June 4) on the abduction of Mr Patrick Hillman to Onitsha, you state that "Nigeria has a reputation as a dangerous and corrupt place for the foreign businessman". You also quote me as saying that kidnapping does not usually take place in Nigeria, as you do my suspicion that Mr Hillman was probably in the hands of organised crime.

The fact is that while genuine businessmen may have now and again lost out to cheats, not one of them has previously been reported to have been abducted. If Mr Hillman was in the hands of organised crime, it is therefore possible that he was lured into believing the promises in the scam letters emanating from Nigeria, to which the British media have frequently called attention.

These scam letters tempt the venturesome into business trans-

Skills for E Europe

From the Director General of Help the Aged

Sir, The prime minister's visit to Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia to offer "solace on the painful path to the free market" (report, May 26) is to be welcomed.

The UK has immense experience and knowledge in voluntary work and the contributions it can make towards the future of harmonised society should not be overlooked. A number of voluntary agencies are already playing an important part in helping eastern European countries to achieve a balanced society.

Help the Aged, with HelpAge International, has taken a lead in advising and assisting non-governmental organisations to overcome the stagnation of the last 40

Houses on surplus land

From Mr Brian Clouston

Sir, Along with the adoption of an agricultural set-aside policy (leading article, "Garden of England", May 23) I believe that the government should now encourage the building of a new generation of country houses. Thirty thousand such houses, each set in 50 acres of parkland, would absorb 1.5 million acres of surplus agricultural land.

Such a policy would inject £7 billion into the construction industry. Landowners would benefit from an equivalent cash injection. Taxpayers could save huge sums of money each year in subsidy to farmers selling land for country estate development.

If each new house was required to plant 50 per cent of its land, as a

and have to remove to other premises and await the landlord's pleasure to rebuild.

Individual lessees should be able to take the value of their property in the insurance money which is paid over and make alternative arrangements for their accommodation. Should all the lessees do this in any particular case the landlord would be left with what he is entitled to, namely the ground and no more.

More and more elderly people are being victimised by so-called managing agents or landlords who, for example, are in Jersey but give an address care of solicitors in London. Elderly people are not anxious to start legal battles and they pay up for a quiet life. The sooner legislation is brought in to protect such people the better.

Yours faithfully,
FAY L. LANDAU,
115 Upper North Street,
Brighton, East Sussex.
June 1.

From Mrs Joan South

Sir, Mr Newsom (letter, June 1) need feel no concern about the loss of "estate management". It is a long time since estates were intact (random sales of freeholds followed legislation in 1967 and 1974) and estate management deriving from privately owned urban estates is very much a thing of the past.

Under section 19 of the Leasehold Reform Act management schemes are already working in most estate areas and a number of controls now exist to secure the maintenance of future amenity standards, operating in close conjunction with local authorities. Estate policies have not favoured residential communities.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN SOUTH
(Campaign Co-ordinator),
Leasehold Enfranchisement
Association,
10 Upper Phillimore Gardens, W8.
June 1.

From Mr Robert Orr-Ewing

Sir, Mr McCulloch finds the government's proposals for leasehold reform "constitutionally objectionable". But the legislation which gave most house leaseholders the right to buy their freeholds was enacted 25 years ago in the Leasehold Reform Act. Is it right to continue to exclude flat leaseholders and house leaseholders with high rateable values from the benefits of that legislation?

Yours faithfully,
R. ORR-EWING,
Knight Frank & Rutley,
8 Smith Street, SW3.
June 2.

actions, holding out prospects of their becoming instant millionaires through commissions of 30 or 40 per cent of sums ranging up to \$170 million, said to be excess money from inflated contracts awarded by the government of Nigeria ten years or more before.

No such funds would exist and when the requested signed blank invoices and account numbers are sent (sic) to effect the bogus remittance, the foreign participants end up as victims of the fraud instead of, it would now seem, worse.

May I take the opportunity of this letter, Sir, to caution that these scam letters should be treated for what they are — passed on to the police, this High Commission, or other authority the addressees prefer. Or into the wastepaper bin, if they must.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE DOVE-EDWIN,
Nigeria High Commission,
9 Northumberland Avenue, WC2.
June 4.

years. Training seminars have been organised in Vienna, Prague, Moscow and shortly Warsaw. Without exception all the non-governmental organisations with whom we have worked are determined to stand on their own feet.

The government's Know-How fund has been a step in the right direction. The scheme must now be expanded to enable British charities to spread urgently needed skills more deeply in the region and to lead the international community into more concerted action by its example.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MAYO,
Director General,
Help the Aged,
St James's Walk,
Clerkenwell Green, EC1.
May 26.

condition of planning consent, 0.75 million acres of new broadleaf woodland could be added to Britain's forest estate by the turn of this century: a forest almost one third as large as that planted by the Forestry Commission over the past 70 years.

By adopting a simple workable solution to help solve its part of Europe's muddled agricultural policy, government would bring real economic benefits to rural communities. Wildlife and visual enhancement similar to that accruing from land replanning in the 18th century would follow.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN CLOUSTON
(Landscape architect),
St Cuthberts House,
Framwellgate Path, Durham.
May 28.

Taking a chance on a state lottery

From the Chairman of the National Council on Gambling

Sir, Whether the proposed national lottery is to be a nationalised concern or, as your leading article (May 30) suggests, a form of private enterprise, it needs to be recognised that a lottery is a form of gambling.

Since the social impact of gambling is of such importance, it has long been public policy in this country that the responsibility for framing legislation should rest with the Home Office and not with those who are to benefit financially from the gambling in any way.

As recently as last year, there was no suggestion by the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, which looked at aspects of gambling, that the Home Office should cease to be concerned with the regulation of gambling.

The fact that the Secretary of State for National Heritage has now been made responsible for the legislation for the national lottery will result in a significant weakening of the policy of providing gambling facilities on the basis of unstimulated demand. This is very undesirable, since it is likely to have a serious impact on the incidence of excessive gambling.

Yours faithfully,
E. MORAN, Chairman,
The National Council on Gambling,
26 Bedford Square, WC1.
June 1.

From the Director of NCVO

Sir, One of the main worries for voluntary organisations is that the lottery will erode charitable income. A national lottery could threaten income in two ways — by reducing donations and by encouraging cuts in public-sector grants. Recent research in Ireland has shown that 10 per cent of the amount spent on national lottery tickets was at the expense of donations to charities.

If applied in the UK, this would lead to a loss of up to £395 million to the charitable sector.

We believe that the majority of the public identify "good causes" with charitable activity. The national lottery would only benefit the charitable sector if it delivers new money and not if it simply diverts funds from existing giving.

Yours faithfully,
JUDY WELEMINSKY, Director,
National Council for
Voluntary Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, WC1.
June 4.

From Mr Denis Vaughan

Sir, Has the Thunderer become a Dithener? Your leader of December 3, 1990, stated: "Lotteries work so well they are almost magical. Every European country bar Britain and Albania runs one. Why not here?"

Yet on May 30, 1992, you write in sharp contradiction: "The question really is why on earth a government is engaging in such potentially corrupting practice as promoting gambling to offset otherwise desirable items of public expenditure?"

Any well-bred government might reply, "because *The Times* told me to do so".

Yours,
DENIS VAUGHAN
(Executive Director),
The Lottery Promotion Co. Ltd.,
41 Floral Street, WC2.
June 1.

Traditional names

From Mr Ashley Banks

Sir, Mr Barrett rightly points out (letter, May 27) that nicknames can sometimes be officially adopted, but their origins can become obscured.

During the war a pub at Stretton in Rutland called "The White Horse" was put up for sale by Jackson-Stops & Staff.

The locals got so used to their signboard that long after the sale the pub was known in the area as "The Jackson Stops". The landlord finally renamed it as such, leaving just the white horse in the sign.

In the general election of 1987 the pub was used as a polling booth. It was said to serve one of the smallest electoral lists in the country, and visiting journalists were eager to find the origins of the name.

The locals told them that a famous highwayman called Jackson had roamed the Great North Road near by and stopped here. (No doubt he rode a white horse as well.)

Yours sincerely,
ASHLEY BANKS,
15 Yeoman's Row,
Knightsbridge, SW3.
May 27.

Downwardly mobile

From Mr Tom Benyon

Sir, One of the lessons of the recession is that the pleasure of ascending from a bike to a banger, thence to a mini-car to chauffeur-driven limousine, is disproportionate to the pain of the descent back again.

Yours faithfully,
TOM BENYON,
The Old Rectory,
Aldstock, Dorset.
June 1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

HUGH CHAPMAN

Dr Hugh Chapman, general secretary of the Society of Antiquaries and president of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, died in London on June 2 aged 46. He was born in Whitstable on December 22, 1945.

WITH the untimely death of Hugh Chapman, British archaeology has lost one of its central characters. He made an outstanding contribution to his discipline through his field excavations, his scholarship, his curatorship and his administration. He was a renaissance man of his time, with a rare ability to inject his own broad learning into the work of others, and a remarkable skill in converting those around him through intelligent persuasion and the sheer transmission of his personal energy.

Hugh Chapman's interest in archaeology was aroused when he read ancient and medieval history at University College London in the mid-1960s, particularly by John Morris's paper on Roman Britain. He then went on to the Institute of Archaeology to undertake graduate research. His skills were demonstrated early with a guardianship excavation of the Bishop's Palace, Lincoln.



which he directed for the then Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments and followed up quickly with an excellent published report. He was also active outside Britain, participating in the excavation of a Cistercian abbey in the Pyrenees, at Bab-Jan in Iran under Dr Clare Godt, at Gernia in the Fezzan, Libya, and in the Roman Road Survey in the Bradano Valley in Italy. Chapman's museum career started in 1969 at the then Guildhall Museum, where his personal skills were to prove instrumental in resolving the financial problems that lay in the way of the

merger of that museum with the old London Museum to create, in 1975, the new Museum of London. He became in due course the Keeper of the Prehistoric and Roman Section of the new museum and was later persuaded to take on the deputy directorship as well. Although he shone as an administrator, his vocation was archaeology. His delight was not in things for their own sake, but in showing them in relationship with each other in the ways they were used or sold. The Roman Galleries at the Museum of London still bear the print of his ideas.

It was during this busy time that he assumed the editorship of the Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, and succeeded not only in injecting new life into the series, but also in establishing a parallel series of occasional research papers which were very well received. His spare time — endless nights of working well into the small hours — went into writing his doctoral thesis, which was a study of the *cursus publicus* (the Roman Imperial postal service) for which London University conferred a PhD upon him in 1978. He always acknowledged that his successful completion of that huge task, and indeed all his prolific output, was made possible only by the solid and happy support of his family.

He was a facilitator of the work of others as well as being an effective archaeologist in his own right, and thus found his natural home in the Society of Antiquaries when appointed its secretary general in 1988. He quickly transformed the working of the society, not only in the way it transacted its business but also in the business itself. It was a task that he hugely enjoyed. He would confide to his many friends that he now felt he was the right person in the right place. He was a man at ease with himself, and he brought together the essential skills of a manager: geniality, unflappable intelligence, reliability and an easy — at times wicked — sense of humour.

He expected that once he had met the early challenges of his period of office, he could devote more time to his own scholarly interests, including turning his PhD into a book. But in the event, the interests of the society were those of its secretary general. Hugh Chapman survived by his wife, Jacqueline, and their three daughters, Sarah, Julia and Annabel.

EDWARD HONEIN

Edward Honein, a Lebanese national assembly deputy who led the political front of the Christian factions during the early years of the Lebanese civil war, died on May 31 aged 78. He was born in a village near Beirut in 1913.

THERE are few politicians in Lebanon confident enough and strong enough to resign from a ministry or a public office. Edward Honein was one of them. He resigned a record five times, from four cabinet portfolios and from the politburo of his political party, the National Coalition.

A lawyer and a writer, he was a man who was prepared to make a stand for what he believed in, and was a scholar and a gifted public speaker. Friends and opponents called him the "poet of the palace" for his command of the Arabic language.

Honein started his political career in 1946 with the National Coalition party, under the late Emile Eddé. He was nominated on its electoral list in 1957 and was elected deputy of the Baabda suburb, south of Beirut. He was re-elected five times until his death.

In 1955, he was appointed secretary general of his party and remained in that post until 1976, when he fell out

with Eddé over policy in the early days of the civil war. In the 1960s, he served as minister of labour briefly twice and as minister of planning and tourism and minister of the economy. In 1972, he was minister of education, but only for three months.

After his departure from the Christian National Coalition party in 1976 he became secretary general of the Lebanese Front, the political arm of the Christian militias which, in the course of the civil war, fought the Lebanese Muslim militias, the Palestinians and the Syrians. Honein was displaced from his home village of Kafarshima by the fighting and sought refuge in the Christian heartland of Kiseirwan.

The late Lebanese president Camille Chamoun once said: "There would never be a representative legislature in Lebanon that would not include Edward Honein."

Outside politics, Honein, who held a law degree from the Jesuit University, was a respected author and a vigorous journalist. His books included *The Novel of Lies and Shams on Stage*. He represented Lebanon in conferences in the Arab world and around the globe. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Zughbi, two daughters and two sons.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL ROGER MORTIMER

Air Vice-Marshal Roger Mortimer, CBE, the RAF's first Dean of Air Force Medicine, died on May 27 aged 77. He was born on November 2, 1914.



ROGER Mortimer began to specialise in pathology after the second world war and rose to become commanding officer of the RAF Institute of Pathology and Tropical Medicine and consultant adviser on both disciplines within the service. The achievement in which he took most personal pride was his selection as one of the main editors of the official RAF medical history of the war — a project that gave him an enormous workload in the mid-1940s. Second to that was, perhaps, the contribution that he made towards standardising laboratory procedures in pathology. He wrote a number of papers on the subject and even listed "laboratory design" among his recreations in *Who's Who*.

His most significant professional accolade, however, was probably his appointment in 1975 as the RAF's first Dean of Air Force Medicine. The job, which gave him overall responsibility for postgraduate education in the service, had been created as part of the restructuring of medical training along more formal lines.

The appointment recognised Mortimer's administrative gifts. His policy letters on his own subjects, pathology and tropical diseases, were models of clarity and common sense. He was as much at home in the corridors of power as he was bent over a laboratory workbench and he was adept at nudging Whitehall in the right direction.

Mortimer was also a natural diplomat in dealing with the other armed forces. He was chairman of a number of joint service committees and was noted for being scrupulously fair. Indeed, he strove so hard to be even-handed that his RAF colleagues at times felt themselves to be

disadvantaged. In manner, Mortimer was genial and urbane. When addressing new young RAF medical entrants, he used to say that he had the ideal job combination. As the RAF's chief of pathology he was his own professional boss, while his CO's posting at the institute made him equally independent of brother officers.

He probably owed such contentment to the war. Born in India, the son of a tea planter whose forbears had served in the Indian army, he came over to this country as a boy to board at Uppingham. From there, he went to St Mary's Hospital Medical

School, and then almost immediately found himself in uniform. He served as medical officer to both Nos 23 and 85 Squadrons during 1942-44, after which he became involved in the multi-volume medical history. He converted to a regular commission after the war. He served in Aden as a young doctor from 1948 to 1951, and then went to Australasia, attached to the team that carried out Britain's first atomic bomb tests, in 1952 — tests that have provoked controversy in recent years because of alleged after-effects on personnel.

Mortimer served in RAF Germany from 1964 to 1968, as a pathologist at Wegberg hospital, near Rheindahlen. He also travelled extensively elsewhere, including the Far East. In more recent years, however, he had spent his time increasingly in this country as the RAF presence throughout the rest of the world contracted.

He became a founder member and fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists and was associate editor and a council member of the British Academy of Pathology from 1967 to 1973. He was editor of *International Pathology* from 1970 to 1973 and was also on the council of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from 1970 to 1973. He wrote widely on his subject, including papers on disinfection and blood transfusion. Liver disease was among his particular concerns.

Mortimer's administrative role at the institute involved him, to some extent, in the formative years of aviation pathology, the specialised branch of pathology established in the early 1950s to help to determine the cause of air accidents and to make appropriate recommendations. He was appointed CBE in 1972 and was made an honorary surgeon to the Queen in the following year.

In his spare time, Mortimer was fascinated by cars, which he loved stripping down and putting together again. His do-it-yourself accomplishments were wide-ranging and included an extension to his house. He finished it in 1953 and dubbed it the "coronation wing".

After retiring from the RAF three years early in 1976, however, he devoted all his time to caring for his invalid wife, Agnes Emily Ballour, whom he had married in 1942, eventually selling his house to help to pay nursing fees. She died seven years ago. Roger Mortimer is survived by their two daughters.

EVE GARDINER

Eve Gardiner, beautician and an early specialist in cosmetic remedial work for the blind and disfigured, died in London on June 1 aged 78. She was born in Somerset on November 14, 1913.



EVE Gardiner was one of the most remarkable women in the beauty business, who applied her expertise to the disfigured and blind as well as to the glamorous. She spent her professional life with just one company, Max Factor, for which she worked for more than 50 years. She originally intended to study art at the Slade School but, as the depression years affected her family's finances, she took a job as a hairdresser and qualified with one of London's top hair and beauty salons. It was at this point, in 1936, that she became aware that Max Factor, at that time the predominant Hollywood make-up mogul, was planning to open a London salon. She applied for a job and, after training, became the first make-up artist to be appointed.

She met Max Factor himself only once, on his last visit to London in 1937, shortly before he died. This one visit, however, was to have a long-term effect on her life and work because, apart from passing on to her his knowledge of make-up and beauty care, he also taught her the principles of how to disguise facial disfigurement and scarring. This was something he had perfected, working with the first world war veterans who had been severely burnt by poison gas.

From the salon's earliest days, the renowned plastic surgeon, Sir Harold Gyles, began sending his patients to Eve Gardiner for remedial camouflage make-up, recognising the psychological importance of restoring their appearance. This was the foundation of all the cosmetic remedial work carried out today by the British Red Cross and other organisations.

Gardiner also soon became one of the pioneers of television make-up, when the BBC, which had no make-up artists, appealed to Max Factor to help at the Radio Show in London in 1938. She worked for the BBC single-handed in 12-hour shifts, making up artists for the television shows being staged at the

exhibition. The outbreak of war in 1939 brought the immediate closure of the Bond Street salon and Gardiner transferred her talents and energy to the new effort. After a 16-week crash course in mathematics, trigonometry and welding, she became an aero-engine inspector, trained to check every one of the 26,000 pieces.

Immediately the war ended Max Factor re-opened his London salon and Gardiner was appointed its head and, subsequently, director of beauty, a position she was to hold until the final closure of the salon in 1974.

Soon after the war, Gardiner began a close association with Sir Archibald McIndoe and his "Guinea Pig Club" members, developing the techniques of disguising the most severe scarring. It was at this time, too, that Gardiner was approached by St Dunstan's, who found that depression was a great barrier to recovery in women blinded during the war, who could no longer see to apply

make-up and who felt that they were no longer attractive. This, in turn, led to her work with schools for the blind, teaching girls about skin care and make-up.

Typically, she set about this with her usual thoroughness, by first of all, sitting down at a table with a mirror in a darkened room and applying her own make-up "blind". She repeated this until she had perfected a technique for teaching. Later, all the expertise gathered during her years working with the blind culminated in the production of a sound cassette "A Touch of Beauty".

In 1970, at a National Congress of Esthetics at Versailles, Eve Gardiner was one of the leading speakers and demonstrated her technique on teaching the blind to an audience of beauty specialists from all over the world.

Because the foundation of Max Factor lay with theatrical make-up, Gardiner was frequently involved in major theatrical productions, including the memorable *Caesar and Cleopatra* and *Anthony and Cleopatra* starring Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh.

Eve Gardiner's 60th birthday in 1973 was a suitably grand affair — lunch at the Savoy in a Dior dress, with a massive birthday cake, the Factor organisation footing the bill and women's page beauty writers seeking the secret of how little her beauty was affected by age.

The following year the Max Factor salon closed, but retirement was not a word in Eve Gardiner's vocabulary. As well as continuing to work part-time in an advisory capacity for the company she embarked on a busy schedule of lectures to women's clubs.

She had never found time for marriage but in 1988 she was the keynote speaker at Esthetics World Expo 88 in Dallas, Texas. After this, she went on to Canada for a holiday and came into contact again with her cousin, Michael Gardiner, whose wife had recently died. She married him in Canada in 1990, when she was 76.

Eve Gardiner was a superb ambassador for the beauty business, as beautiful and glamorous as any of the stars she met. She also managed to pursue a variety of interests including painting, writing poetry and gardening. She is survived by her husband.

PHILIP DUNNE

Philip Dunne, the Hollywood screenwriter whose credits included *How Green Was My Valley* and who led the resistance to Senator Joseph McCarthy and his anti-communist crusade, died of cancer at his home in Malibu, California, on June 2 aged 84. He was born in New York City on February 11, 1908.

WHEN political paranoia led to the creation of a Hollywood "blacklist" in the post-war years, ruining many promising careers, Philip Dunne was in the forefront of the opposition. As a founder member of the Screen Writers Guild, he joined the directors John Huston and William Wyler in forming the Committee for the First Amendment in 1947. Its aim was to protest against the procedures of McCarthy's House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Supported by a brigade of movie stars, the three men sponsored radio broadcasts and went to Washington in a vain attempt to defend the so-called Hollywood Ten — a group of writers and directors who were ultimately imprisoned for refusing to say whether or not they had belonged to the Communist party and for declining to incriminate their colleagues.

Dunne was the son of a political humorist, Finley Peter Dunne. His mother had been a gold medalist in the Olympic games of 1900. He attended a private school and went on to Harvard, where he graduated in 1929. The following year, he moved to Hollywood, taking a job as a reader at the 20th Century-Fox studio.

He spent most of his long career with Fox, writing or co-writing some 36 films and directing ten. In the late 1930s, he worked on a number of respectable biographical pictures, which usually did not tamper with history too much. *Stanley and Livingstone* (1939), directed by Henry King, was a fair example, with Spencer Tracy and Cedric Hardwicke as powerful leads. *Swanee River*, which Dunne co-scripted in the same year, had Don Ameche as the songwriter Stephen Foster, and Al Jolson also in the cast.

Philip Dunne's reputation was now strong enough for

him to be moved on to adapting bestsellers for the screen. These included Louis Bromfield's *The Rains Came*, with Myrna Loy in the lead after Marlene Dietrich and Hedy Lamarr had said no. *How Green Was My Valley* (1941), directed by John Ford from the Richard Llewellyn novel, won Dunne an Academy Award nomination for his script, although he had to wait ten years for his next one, which came for *David and Bathsheba* in 1951.

After the war, during which he made a number of documentaries for the US government, Dunne worked with Joe Mankiewicz and showed that he could turn his hand to graceful light comedy in films such as *The Ghost and Mrs Muir* (1947), with Rex Harrison and Gene Tierney. The early 1950s found him tied up with massive — and massively expensive — biblical epics, such as *The Robe*, the first film in CinemaScope, and *David and Bathsheba*. He also scripted *The Agony and the Ecstasy* (1965) from another bestseller, by Irving Stone, which had Michael



angelo hard at work in the Sistine Chapel.

Like many a scriptwriter before him, Dunne turned his hand to direction and to production. His record here was variable. Probably the best of the films he directed was *Ten North Frederick* (1958), in which, once again, he drew on a best-selling novel, this time by John O'Hara.

In later years, Dunne became a syndicated columnist and essayist. His autobiography, *Take Two: A Life in Movies and Politics*, was published in 1980.

He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

APPRECIATION

Peter Jenkins

PETER Jenkins (obituary May 28) has been taken from us in his prime and on song. He was a superb political journalist who understood what motivated the personalities and the players on the political stage; who had a profound and detailed understanding of all the key policy

issues at home and abroad; and who had a sharp grasp of how these played into the political process. He cared about the issues; and he routinely produced a rounded, beautifully literate and assured commentary on our political times. He was his chief chronicler; and he will be greatly missed.

John Birt

June 8 ON THIS DAY 1931

The Richter scale for measuring the magnitude of earthquakes did not come into use until 1935. All that the Meteorological Office could say about this one was that its "amplitude was so great that the trace exceeded the limit of registration" and that the epicentre was "in the north-east of England".

EARTHQUAKE SHOCK EFFECT FELT OVER WIDE AREA

An earth tremor of great severity than any experienced in this country since the East Anglian shock in 1884 was felt over a wide area of England and Scotland shortly before half-past one yesterday morning. No serious damage appears to have been caused by the disturbance, but the movement was sufficiently pronounced to cause alarm where it was observed, and many people rushed into the streets. Houses were shaken, windows rattled, beds rocked, doors banged, and pictures were moved. . . .

The earthquake was observed at Bournemouth and other places on the South Coast and as far north as Elgin. A tentative estimate is that the area affected was about 150,000 square miles in extent, as compared with 100,000 miles in the case of the shock in 1884. The tremors 47 years ago, however, were more violent and caused substantial destruction. Although the news that there had been an earthquake shock in London surprised most of the millions who slept through the disturbance, all who were awake felt the earth movement. There is common agreement that the tremors were weird and puzzling. People who were in bed noticed that their beds suddenly began to sway from side to side, and the movement

continued for about a minute. A correspondent who lives on the Parliament Hill side of Hampstead Heath states that he was awakened at 1.26 am. by the bed lifting up and down. The head of the bed was due south-east, and the movement seemed to be sideways as well as one of rise and fall. It was rhythmic in character and of such intensity that his first impulse was to clutch the mattress. For half-an-hour after the disturbance, swans and other birds on a pond and two blackbirds nesting under the window of the house were calling out in an agitated manner.

A group of people sitting in a room at Maidalva described their experience as uncanny. There was a marked rumbling noise, which was at first attributed to the passing of a heavy lorry, but as it continued this explanation was discarded. Then it was noticed that all the electric lights were swinging, and that a tall vase containing flowers was moving. The flowers continued to sway for at least a minute. It was thought that a big explosion had occurred somewhere in the neighbourhood. In several houses clocks were stopped by the tremor at 1.26 am., or within a minute or two of that time. Light sleepers who were awakened by the movements of beds or the noise of windows were at a loss to know what had happened, but experienced uneasiness. There are many reports of barking dogs.

A telephone operator on duty at the Times office in Printing House-square was startled by the shaking of the switchboard of the private exchange and sudden chaos among the indicators.

The clock above Edmonton Institution, Bridge-road, N., was split open by the shock. South Wales was also outside the area of shock, but in Carnarvonshire the tremor lasted five seconds and was preceded by a strong gale of wind.

The earthquake was felt over a wide area in Scotland, but no damage has been reported.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Smeaton, civil engineer, Leeds, 1724; Robert Stephenson, engineer, Glasgow, 1772; Robert Schumann, composer, Zwickau, Germany, 1810; Charles Reade, novelist, Ipsden House, Oxfordshire, 1814. DEATHS: Muhammad Medina, 632; Hardeusine, king of England 1040-42, 1042; Thomas Paine, radical, New York, 1809; Sarah Siddons, actress, London, 1831; Andrew Jackson, 7th president of the USA, 1829-37; Nashville, Tennessee, 1845; Sir Joseph Paxton, designer of the Crystal Palace, London, 1865; George Sand, pseudonym of Amantine Aurore, novelist, Nohant, France, 1876; Gerard Manley Hopkins, poet, Dublin, 1889; Bliss Carman, poet, Canada, Connecticut, 1929; Robert Taylor, film actor, Santa Monica, California, 1969.

Latest wills

Professor Robert William Baker, of Woodgreen, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, first professor of ceramics at the Royal College of Art, left estate valued at £384,254 net. Mr Theophilus George Phillips, of Henleaze, Somerset, left estate valued at £944,900 net. He left a personal legacy of £2,000, £2,000 to St Martin's Church, Liskeard, Cornwall, and the residue equally between the RNIB and the League Against Cruel Sports. Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Mrs Edna Mary Bell of Bourne-mouth, Dorset, £770,439. Mrs Vera Margaret Dummer, of Long Ditton, Surrey, £529,488. Mrs Grace Ellen Durran, of

Newbridge, Isle of Wight, £584,066. Mr Edwin William Hux of Milford on Sea, Hampshire, retired Indian police officer, £1,322,015. Mrs Constance Livesidge, of Tingley, West Yorkshire, £1,351,453. Mr Francis Geoffrey Little, of Mithelstan, Gloucestershire, £1,028,686. Mr John Douglas McMartin, of Grange over Sands, Cumbria, £681,457. Mr Thomas MacLauchlan Mackenzie, of Heston, west London, £652,703. Mr Hans Rossiter, of Pembroke Square, London W2, £524,521. Miss Rose Mary Taylor, of East Sheen, London SW14, £621,921.

University news

primarily to increased grants awarded by United Kingdom industries and public corporations (up 44 per cent) and from overseas, which saw an increase of 127 per cent. Grants included: £293,160 over three years (initially) for transport network to Professor M. O'Mahoney, Department of Electronic Systems Engineering, £113,400 over 18 months (initially) for grant for Dr D. I. Sadler, Department of Language and Linguistics. £101,000 over two years (initially) for Dr L. Sadler and Dr J. Arnold, Department of Language and Linguistics. Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food £90,250 over three years (initially) for Dr D. I. Sadler, Department of Language and Linguistics. The following to become deans of schools: Mr Alistair McAuley, School of Social Sciences; and Mr Nigel Rodley, School of Law. New Heads of Departments for the next academic year: Dr Tom Sorell (philosophy), Dr David Sanders (government), Professor Rob Messia (electronic systems engineering).

istian worst Mary, canse ter harsh and line thing

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Lilley: lifeline to run for about 12 months

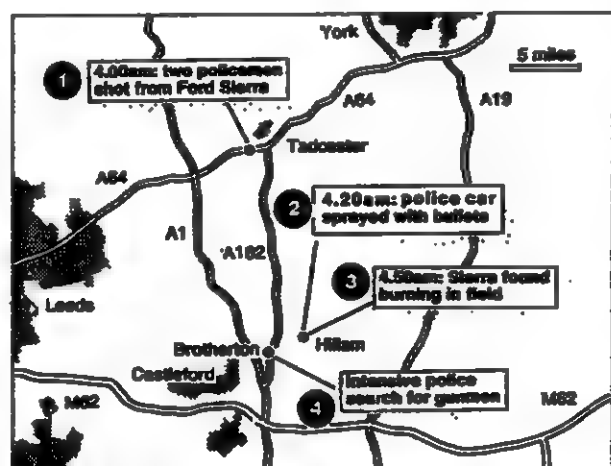
The social security secretary is also expected to announce a wide-ranging review of pension law in response to a critical report from the Commons social security select committee report published before the general election.



National divorce, page 10
Leading article, page 15

Mr Howe's role will be

National divorce, page 10
Leading article, page 15



Within minutes nine police vehicles had converged on the scene and a search was begun by armed officers wearing flak jackets. The Sierra was found about two miles away in an area known as Bluebell

ACROSS

- 1 He says he's unable to better himself, poor beggar (9).
- 6 First to shoot in America gets a hole in the head
- 9 Shows opposition to sisters getting involved (7).
- 10 Control before the border (7).
- 11 A character expected to invest (5).
- 12 Peers had a problem - aggressive leader (9).
- 13 A green banana left a worker in great discomfort (8).
- 15 The French vessel is smaller (4).
- 19 See some ladies' pyjamas (4).
- 20 Moderate having to do for example broadcasting (2,6).
- 23 Alarmed to get the shakes on the motorway (4+5).
- 24 High peaks and points (5).

DOWN

- 2 Stiff note about a church official (7).
- 3 She's always highly vocal (7).
- 28 Exact due (5).
- 29 The dragon ousted by a Lothario (9).
- 1 Race who ride white horses? (9).
- 2 Uppity boy a leading journalist investigated (5).
- 3 Trendy parties - coppers gain entrance to make checks (8).
- 4 Criminal beasts in the end (8).
- 5 One offering a grumpy has licence in the bank (6).
- 6 Blunder in, shamed out, for a drink (6).
- 7 Quiet lionesses in a knot (9).
- 8 Little change in a good player's career (5).
- 14 Looking for a sound round fruit

The solution of Saturday's Prize puzzle No 18,938 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

**MODERATE
SELDANE**

Yugoslavia Dnr _____	DNB	140.00	N Ireland _____	727
Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.			Weatherall is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.	

Information supplied by Max Office

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Today's pollen
count forecast is
**MODERATE
SELDANE.**
A major advance in hayfever
treatment.

Concise crossword, page 9
Weekend Times

● BUSINESS 19-22
● SPORT 23-30

BUSINESS TIMES

SPORT
23-30

MONDAY JUNE 8 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR John Bell

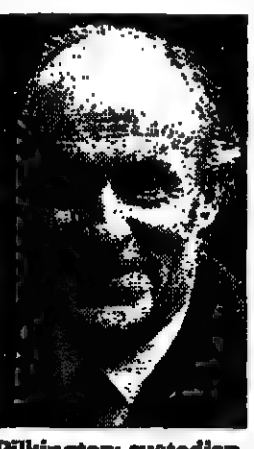
IN THE NEWS

Stepping over the broken glass

On Thursday, for the first time since November 1986, Sir Antony Pilkington will present the annual trading results of the company his father founded without the spectre of a bidder at his shoulder. Or is that just what he might like to believe?

When Sir Owen Green's BTR disposed of its remaining 4.1 per cent share stake last month, Sir Antony, direct descendant of William Pilkington, who founded the company, could finally believe that, after five years, he had seen off the fiercest threat to the company's independence. Nobody will be more aware than he, however, that the name that made St Helens famous is, today, perhaps, more vulnerable than ever.

If he cuts the final dividend this week, as his



Pilkington: custodian

City followers expect, not to say urge, little more than a bid will underpin the share price.

Sir Antony's consolation, if that it be, is the depth of his experience in this position. As chairman of a company that feeds industries with the most volatile of trading cycles, he is used to finding the path of independence strewn with broken glass.

An experienced back-to-the-wall fighter he may be, but he is not the susceptible of his proud 166-year-old company to what some regard as the short-termist treachery of which many of the City's professional shareholders are capable understandingly grieves him more than it would most chairmen.

Sir Antony is, after all, custodian of not so much a company, more a slice of English industrial history. Since none of Sir Antony's three sons are Pilks men, this is a responsibility from which the family will be absolved upon Sir Antony's retirement. Given that he is still only 56, that could mean some years yet.

To discard the old paternalistic image might be desirable, to allow the company that bears the family name to fall into the hands of a predator would be a heart-breaking exit for the last of the Pilkington line.

MICHAEL TATE

Compromise deal will be put forward

Lamont to fight EC threat to City markets

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, will tomorrow fight an EC Commission plan, backed by France and Germany that would bar many City securities houses from trading in large blocks of shares and taking substantial underwriting positions.

The new rules, governing how much capital securities firms require to cover large-risk exposures, are part of Sir Leon Britan's bid, as competition commissioner, to liberalise securities trading in the 1993 single market.

As they stand, however, the new rules, designed to apply equally to non-bank investment firms as well as to the investment arms of banks, would put a stop to millions of pounds' worth of share trading in the City by institutional British brokers and threaten hundreds of jobs.

One British official in Brussels said: "A large exposure directive just suited to banks would kill our brokers because they simply can't compete with the likes of Deutsche Bank." At a meet-

ing of EC finance ministers in Luxembourg, Mr Lamont will argue in favour of a compromise put forward by the EC's Portuguese presidency, that would allow the traditional British share trading culture to continue.

But Mr Lamont and the Portuguese will face opposition from Germany, where large-scale share trading tends to be limited to the investment operations of the leading retail banks. Germany favours the original commission proposal on capital adequacy, which would have limited any single risk to 25 per cent of a firm's capital base.

This would create havoc in the City, where British institutional traders hold blocks of securities worth far more than 25 per cent of their capital on their books for no more than a few days before trading them on. France, where, as in Germany, regulatory limits on stockbrokers have always been much firmer than in Britain, also preferred the original commission plan.

The Portuguese compro-

mise introduces the notion of a "soft limit", a ten-day period within which traders could deal in a relatively exposed position, but after which required capital ratios would rise sharply.

This soft limit would theoretically provide small British traders with a window within which they could continue operating. Ministers are likely to argue long into the Luxembourg night on the subject, as the type of capital that is allowed to qualify is also in question.

Treasury sources in London have warned Mr Lamont against setting any compromise in stone while similar international stockbroking rules are being worked out by the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, which meets in Geneva.

But the Portuguese presidency will be looking for a deal that would add another piece of EC legislation to its tally while leading the Community. Crucially for Sir Leon, if capital adequacy can be agreed this week, the stalled negotiations on the EC investment passport could be given a jump start before the end of the month.

This directive, which would allow stockbrokers freedom to trade throughout the Community on the basis of a single home-country authorisation, is stuck in a similar cultural quagmire - liberalised trading habits in Britain, deeply regulated ones in southern Europe - so that which threatens an impasse on capital adequacy.

Finance ministers will also discuss VAT, with Mr Lamont due to stick to his guns and fight against a minimum rate for the EC. He will also challenge the commission's plan to impose a minimum £240 per bottle excise duty on spirits in the Community, and argue against putting certain traditional British mixer drinks into high excise categories.

British officials said agreement on excise duties was unlikely simply because of the breadth of the discussions. "We're really covering the waterfront on this one," said one official.

O&Y gains more breathing space

BY OUR CITY STAFF

OLYMPIA & York Developments, which faces debts of £513.5 billion (£6.1 billion), will breathe more easily this week, after some of its creditors in Canada withdrew their legal proceedings late on Friday.

The withdrawal of the action, through which the creditors had wanted to have some of the group's key Canadian properties excluded from O&Y's bankruptcy protection filing, means the fate of all of O&Y's Canadian assets will remain in the hands of the Ontario court until the group presents its debt restructuring plan on July 14.

O&Y delighted in the news, which will allow the group to spend less time in courtrooms and more time negotiating

with its 91 lenders. Frank Bennett, a lawyer for the group, said: "We will now be able to spend more time on a plan of reorganisation and less time in an adversarial frame in court." The move was seen as a "very positive development for O&Y."

O&Y filed for bankruptcy protection on its Canadian assets in America and Canada on May 14 and on its Canary Wharf project in London on May 27.

In London this week a team of experts employed by Hanson will investigate the prospects for a Hanson-led rescue operation for Canary Wharf. A number of industrial groups are reported to be thinking of lining up behind a Hanson plan.

Talk of Lloyd's plc played down

BY MARTIN WALLER

OBSERVERS of Lloyd's of London were playing down weekend suggestions that the insurance market may choose to convert into a limited company as part of a solution to the problems of huge losses by games and concern over future underwriting capacity.

The notion that Lloyd's may go down the plc route and end 300 years of unlimited liability is not a new one, but weekend reports suggest unnamed parties may be seeking the support of the

Lloyd's council ahead of a formal bid for the market.

Such a plan would be a bold move, given the continuing difficulties in the insurance market. A potential buyer would have to take a view on whether Lloyd's was already sufficiently insulated against further losses by the reserves held in its central fund.

Last week, Lloyd's sought a further £500 million from its membership, charging about £20,000 a head to each name

and doubling the size of the fund to £1 billion, a move greeted with anger by many of the names.

No direct approach is believed to have been received at Lloyd's on change of status. John Rew of Chartist, the independent Lloyd's analyst, said a rescue by means of conversion to plc status was "a long shot." He added: "In my experience Lloyd's is not over-reserved, and it would only be attractive to an outsider if it was over-reserved."

EC worth a fight to the Finnish

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Danes' rejection of the Maastricht treaty on European union has not dented Finland's determination to join the European Community by 1995, according to Pertti Salolainen, the Finnish deputy prime minister and minister for foreign trade.

With its biggest trading partner, Sweden, bent on being in the first wave of new members of the EC, Finland has no intention of being left behind.

Mr Salolainen's discussions with the British government have encouraged him to speak of the Danish vote speeding up the process of widening membership. The joint call by John Major and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, on Friday for a speedier widening of the EC reinforced his confidence.

After a meeting in London



Salolainen: steered Efta

last Friday with Tristram Garel-Jones, minister of state at the foreign office, Mr Salolainen said he was assured that Britain would do its utmost as EC president this year to press ahead with widening the Community.

As president of the European Free Trade Association last year, Mr Salolainen steered Efta to its historic pact with the Community, creating the European Economic Area that, from 1993, will embrace the whole of western Europe.

For the conservative politician tipped as a candidate in Finland's presidential elections in 1994, however, the EEA is only a halfway house to full EC membership.

The collapse of the Soviet Union, with which the Finns share a 1,200-kilometre border, has enabled Finland to reappraise its post-war policies. The neutrality required to keep Moscow sweet has yielded to a desire for urgent integration into western Europe for both economic and political reasons.

The Finnish people will be asked their opinion of community membership in a referendum in 1994. But Mr Salolainen pointed out that it will only be "consultative". A recent opinion poll

showed that 56 per cent of Finns were in favour of EC membership, with only 31 per cent against. This makes it the most pro-Community of the Nordic states.

A special factor behind Finland's enthusiasm for European integration is the virtual disappearance of its trade with the former Soviet bloc. Until the late eighties, this formed about a fifth of Finland's total trade. Today, it is down to 3 to 4 per cent.

Mr Salolainen described the adjustment this meant for Finland as "extremely problematic".

The loss of its eastern trade also combined with the global economic slowdown to produce a severe recession that has sent unemployment in Finland to record levels.

Mr Salolainen foresees no early end to the recession in terms of reduced unemployment, but notes that exports are starting to pick up.



THE restaurant now departing from platform one... Grown-ups with a fondness for playing with trains can buy the biggest train set to come up for sale in Britain for years, with a house and working business thrown in, when the Laverham Line in Sussex, opened in 1858, comes up for auction early next month. The station closed in 1969 and the buildings sat unused until David Milham (above), the current owner, bought them in 1983. The joint agents, Christie & Co and Fox & Sons, expect more than £400,000 for the nine-acre property.

GPA float boosted by \$50m

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE \$3.5 billion international flotation of GPA Group, the Irish air leasing business, has been enlarged by at least \$50 million because of strong support from overseas institutions.

The prospectus, issued today ahead of the advertising campaign, shows that the combined offering has been enlarged by 5 million shares, raising up to \$696 million in fresh funds for the group. In total, shares worth up to \$1.1 billion will be issued, including those being sold by existing investors.

Advisers to the float, keen to talk up prospects for the shares in the light of earlier lukewarm response in the City of London, say the recent institutional roadshows in Japan were for standing room only, and meetings due to start in New York tomorrow are fully booked.

The timetable to the offer has been extended by a day in Britain and Ireland to increase potential demand from the retail investor. The offer will now close on Tuesday next week.

The striking price, at which the shares will be sold, will be set on June 18, two days after the tender offer closes. The prospectus indicates a price range of between \$10 and \$12.50, and applicants will be asked to nominate the price up to which they wish to

buy. Alternatively they can fail to nominate a firm figure and have the shares allocated automatically at the striking price. They may apply in either sterling or dollars for a minimum of 200 shares, at the sterling equivalent between £1,090 and £1,360.

At the indicated prices, the shares would command a dividend yield for the financial

year just completed, to end-March, of between 3.2 per cent and 2.5 per cent and be sold on a historic price-earnings multiple of 9.8 to 11.9.

Under the arrangements for the float shares can be switched between Britain and Ireland, America, Japan and the other main equity markets according to where demand is heaviest.

Lord King receives 64% pay increase

BY MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

LORD King's pay as chairman of British Airways rocketed by more than 64 per cent last year to £665,350. The figure, disclosed in BA's annual report and accounts for the year to end-March, released at the weekend, comprises a £220,000 performance-related bonus on top of a 10.2 per cent increase in salary from £407,650 to £449,350.

Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive, received an increase of about 45 per cent to between £585,000 and £590,000, a figure also boosted by a performance bonus.

The bonuses reflect the strong trading performance reported by BA last month. Pre-tax profits for the year to end-March surged by 119 per cent to £285 million at a time when BA's main rivals were running up losses.

The company report said that this was the first time the maximum bonus had been paid "and reflects the extent to which the recovery in the group's performance exceeded expectations".

Neither Lord King nor Sir Colin collected bonuses a year ago, when both saw their pay fall by £108,000. Three years ago they, along with other captains of industry, were at the centre of a political storm over their pay, which drew the comment from Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister, that some pay increases were "totally unjustified".

BA said yesterday that the pay of Lord King and Sir Colin had risen by about 14.5 per cent over the past two years, compared with the 11.5 per cent average increase received by BA staff.

The salaries and bonuses are determined by the board's remuneration committee, comprising the group's four non-executive directors, led by Sir Michael Angus, BA's deputy chairman, and the new president of the CBI. The other members are Lord White, chairman of Hanson Industries, Charles H. Price, the former US ambassador to the UK, and Michael Davies, chairman of Calor Group.

The bonuses hinge on corporate performance targets set annually by the committee.

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8395 (+0.0023)
German mark 2.9149 (-0.0233)
Exchange index 92.5 (-0.4)
Bank of England official base rate (5%)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2077.4 (-36.7)
FT-SE 100 2688.5 (-39.1)
New York Dow Jones 3398.69 (+1.81)
Tokyo Nikkei Avege 17790.04 (-557.71)

Lynk 'raises £500m' for Coal stake

By A CORRESPONDENT

ROY Lynk, president of the Union of Democratic Miners, says he has raised £500 million to buy a direct stake in the British coal industry, now heading down the privatisation slipway.

"I've got the money and the business partners," Mr Lynk promised as he left Nottingham, the union's home, for its annual conference in Weymouth this week. "Like Graham Taylor, I know what the team is and I'm convinced I've got the right plan."

Barclays tests mail network

BARCLAYS Bank has become the first clearing bank to join the Document Exchange Network run by Britdoc, the mail offshoot of Hays, the business services group. The contract is a coup for Britdoc, linking Barclays' branch network of almost 2,500 to the exchange's 23,500 existing customers for a six-month trial period.

Britdoc expects to handle between 5 million and 10 million items of mail a year between Barclays and its members, which include building societies, insurance companies and other financial institutions as well as the legal profession, for whom the business was initially started.

Norweb buys

Norweb, the electricity distributor serving the North West, is to pay £5 million for 20 out-of-town Atlantis electrical superstores owned by Thorn EMI in the North and Midlands. The move substantially expands Norweb's electrical goods retail operation, boosting total floor space by more than 50 per cent to 230,000 sq ft. The company has 100 outlets, mainly smaller high street stores, but is keen to expand into the out-of-town market. The businesses being bought from Thorn are in existing retail parks.

time, the trade secretary, is expected to give the miners' confidence a boost when he spells out to the conference more details of British Coal's privatisation plans.

Tim Eggar, the energy minister, has said that miners will be given government cash to help put together a management and employee buyout of British Coal, while addressing the British Association of Colliery Managers (BACM), which is looking for consortium partners for its own bid.

The government has yet to announce formally the structure of the privatisation or whether British Coal would be kept in one piece or broken up.

A consortium, made up of the UDM, Lloyds Merchant Bank and other business backers, has drawn up a plan for buying the industry. The move does not have the backing of Arthur Scargill's National Union of Mineworkers, from which the UDM broke away after the 1984-5 strike.

The UDM has also had talks with the BACM, which may elect to join the buyout bid, Mr Lynk added. He is also willing to bring Nacods, the pit deputies' union, into the fold as well.

He has named his priorities for the industry, including:

- Long-term security of orders with coal-fired power stations.
- At least one tenth of the industry going to the miners in shares.
- Protection of the multi-million pound miners' pension fund so that any would-be corporate raiders will be unable to get their hands on it in the way Maxwell did with his companies.
- Maintenance of safety standards in the mines.

The UDM is formally opposed to the government's sell-off plans but believes that buying parts of British Coal is the best way of protecting jobs.

Mr Lynk said: "The form of our bid will naturally depend on the government's proposals. It may be that we look at small power plants locally placed to pits, and enter into direct competition with the major power generators supplying the national grid."



Setting course: Roger McKechnie and Louise Jackson of Derwent Valley's sales team

Derwent aims at Continent

By DEREK HARRIS

DERWENT Valley Foods, which created the Philaeas Fogg range of snacks, is mounting an assault on key markets in continental Europe and Australia.

Derwent, based at Consett, Durham, is aiming for a 3 per cent share in key markets abroad, according to Kim Fletcher, European business development manager. France, Germany, Spain, The Netherlands and Italy are prime targets, he said.

"Snack markets on the Continent on the whole are less developed than that in the United Kingdom and we believe they are now at the stage that the UK market was when Derwent first launched the Philaeas Fogg range," Mr Fletcher said.

If Derwent reaches its targets it could add up to £50 million in turnover, according to Chris Braxall, Derwent's finance director.

Derwent, accustomed in good years to growth of between 15 per cent and 20 per cent, has been hit by the recession in the UK which has reduced sales increases.

REPORTING THIS WEEK

BAA expected to report profit descent

TODAY

SIR John Egan, chairman of BAA, will report a dip in full-year profits, reflecting flat passenger traffic and property write-offs at the airports operated. The residual effects of the Gulf war and the recession in Britain and America depressed passenger traffic last year, but BAA is expected to make a bullish statement on current trading.

County NatWest WoodMac has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £195 million (£247 million). Earnings per share of 28.7p (37.7p) are expected, but so is a dividend of 14.25p (13p). Analysts are awaiting more news about a fifth terminal at Heathrow as well as further details on plans to enlarge the shopping areas at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Interim: Electronic Data Processing, GWR Group. Final: Acel, BAA, Betterware

Consumer Products, Henderson Administration Group, Economic statistics: Credit business (April).

TOMORROW

THE absence of two loss-making businesses will produce a healthy rise in profits at Unigate, but underlying growth for the group will be marginal. The dairy, fresh foods and restaurant group is expected to announce final pre-tax profits of £90 million (£75.5 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew.

County NatWest expects Vodafone, the cellular telephone group, to report a relatively resilient advance in full-year pre-tax profits to £265 million (£244.7 million).

Interim: Great Portland Estates, Greenore, Kvaerner (first quarter), Murray Enterprise, Stoke, United Drug. Final: BSS Group, Enrap, Marshalls, Marston, Thompson & Evershed, Meyer Inter-

national, PowerGen, PowerScreen International, Scott Pickford, Seton Healthcare Group, Unigate, Vodafone Group, Vosper Thornycroft Holdings.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Daily Mail and General Trust, Johnson & Firth Brown, London Scottish Bank, Persbury AS (quarterly), Finlay, Aisprun Furniture Group, Amersham International, Cape, Electromechanics, Hambro, Heath (CE), Mansfield Brewery, M & G Second Dual Trust, Moorgate Smaller Companies Income Trust, Northern Foods, Northumbrian Water Group, Oriflame International, Porter Chadburn, Rascal Electronics, Regalian Properties, Tams (John) Group.

THURSDAY

Final: Barbour Index, British Land, Co. Cedar Allen Holdings, Gropper (James), Drummond Group, International Commu-

nication & Data, JF Fiedgelling Japan, Johnson Matthey, Locker (Thomas), Osborne & Little, Oxford Instruments, Penna, Phoenix Timber Group, Pilkington, Salvesen (Christina), Scapa Group, Smith New Court, Staveley Industries, Economic statistics: Capital issues and redemptions (May); provisional figures of vehicle production (May); CBI survey of distributive trades (May).

FRIDAY

Interim: Alvis, Control Techniques, Final: Cohen (A) & Co, Visteo Group, Vtech Holdings, Economic statistics: Usable steel production (May); overseas direct investment (1990); construction output (first quarter - provisional); retail prices index and tax and price index (April). Agma: Esselte, Helical Bar, How Grp, Serif Cowell, Sotheby's Hidge, Taylor Woodrow, Thane.

PHILIP PANGALOS

CAPITAL MARKETS

Redland leaves the stone age

THE progress made in treasury management in the UK over the past decade has been patchy. While the bulk of the top 100 British companies increased their treasury sophistication dramatically during the eighties, the treasury revolution seemed to pass by swathes of companies in the next layer down.

Few corporate encounters demonstrated this gulf in treasury management more clearly than the takeover of Steeley by Redland, its fellow building materials company and FTSE 100 stock.

Under Gerald Corbett, Redland's finance director, the company's treasury function has become a byword for innovation. Redland has made full use of the whole panoply of instruments available to the corporate market to manage its risk exposure and reduce its financing costs.

By contrast, Steeley had barely progressed from the treasury stone age. It had no treasurer until last year, and operated its borrowing on a decentralised basis with each division managing its own arrangements.

Net debt on acquisition was £267 million and the interest budget for 1992 was £29 million. The debt was entirely in the form of short- and medium-term bank debt, including £50 million of overdrafts. Steeley had no credit rating and had never accessed the bond markets for long-term, fixed-rate finance.

According to Stephen East, Redland's treasurer, the arrangements were inefficient because of the lack of a central, co-ordinated funding strategy. Once the takeover was completed, Mr Corbett cancelled or gave notice of cancellation on all Steeley's diverse bank lines. These will be repaid from the cash on Redland's stronger and liquid balance sheet. Mr East reckons the move will save between 50 and 100 basis points on borrowing costs. The overall saving for 1992 is estimated at more than £4 million.

JONATHAN PRYNN

SMALLER COMPANIES

Transition prompts AAF revival

RENEWED investor interest in cyclical stocks has produced a revival in smaller company stocks, but few can match the recovery by AAF Industries in the first half of the year.

After touching 136p in February, the shares have bounced back to 195p. A round of institutional presentations by Hilton Schloberg, executive deputy chairman, is encouraging further support.

Behind the recovery is AAF's successful transition from investment company to industrial group. AAF was originally set up to hold South African assets and strategic stakes in other companies. In 1989, the decision was taken to create an international industrial group through acquisition and organic growth.

The recession created ideal conditions for a cash-rich prospective buyer to find bargains. The breakthrough came in January 1991 with the £11 million acquisition of the alloy wheels division of Parkfield from the receivers.

The renamed Alloy Wheels International had assets of £19 million. It made operating losses of £62,000 in its final year as part of the failed conglomerate, but contributed profits of £5.3 million in the previous year. It contributed pre-tax profits of £2.89 million in its first year with AAF.

AAF lifted pre-tax profits from £3.57 million to £3.97 million in 1991, despite an interest charge of £1.37 million, compared with investment income of £1.66 million previously. Gearing was 37.5 per cent but the interest cover remains comfortable and the asset base is strong, conservatively valued at 182p a share.

MARTIN BARROW

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GILT-EDGED

Maastricht vote removes a prop from the market

IN spite of the dramatic changes in the gilt market's fortunes in recent days, there is little doubt that the longer-term price outlook remains good. The UK stands out as a beacon of long-term political stability and the current phase of the business cycle traditionally favours a strongly positive price performance.

However, the Danish rejection of the proposed Maastricht treaty removed an important prop for the market, one that had been regarded as sufficient reason for investors to ignore some deep-seated problems of the UK economy. It had been assumed that yield convergence between ERM markets, based on policy harmonisation in the run-up to EMU and on diminished risks of currency devaluation, would more or less guarantee an almost uninterrupted advance in prices into 1993. With this process on hold for the foreseeable future, the market has to look more closely at fundamentals.

The fall in gilt yields since the general election was in part based on this convergence assumption. But it also reflected the fact that much of the favourable UK political and economic background was being discounted. For the market to advance much further, given heavy supply and the improbability of base rate reductions, the convergence process and yield trends in Europe have to be positive.

The question mark over Maastricht deals a blow to the market's new-found confidence. While the danger of a sterling devaluation is considered small, worries about currency realignment will persist. Against this, international investors are less likely to increase exposure to the gilt-edged market at present yield levels.

Rather, further news of an uncertain nature could intensify the desire to lock in more of the substantial profits made since the election. Since the gilt market is an important source of funds in the authorities' deficit financing process, reduced international interest would have a detrimental effect on the supply/demand balance. Near term, therefore, gilt's performance is expected to be uninspiring, particularly as the Danish referendum result removes virtually all hope of the UK being able to reduce short-term interest rates below

those in Germany. The development has also raised doubts about the enthusiasm with which the Maastricht convergence criteria will be pursued. Given the state of the UK's public sector finances, such worries cannot be helpful.

The domestic background does suggest, however, that a rise in yields much above present levels is not justified. Investors might still regard treaty ratification as probable (a view that could be enhanced at the Lisbon summit of June 26-27) but they will err on the side of caution. After all, the period between now and the French referendum in September could remain one of uncertainty for all high-yielding European bond markets.

This presents a difficult situation for the authorities. While the 1992-3 funding programme has been a great success so far, they cannot afford to ease back on gilt sales for too long.

Loss of momentum would quickly lead to a damaging loss of the initiative. The government will almost certainly be at pains to ensure that the funding process proceeds as smoothly as possible. In present circumstances, there is greater danger that this could stall.

However, there are steps the government could take to ease the Bank's task of funding borrowing requirements. There are two measures that stand out as potentially most helpful.

□ It can confirm the UK's commitment to a firm sterling policy via a move to narrow ERM divergence bands.

□ It can underline its determination to tackle the public sector deficit. A commitment at the time of the autumn statement to cut next year's planned spending totals would be seen as very positive.

If anything, the problems of the last few days might strengthen the government's determination to pursue such policy courses. The adoption of these options in the autumn, against the background of damage repair at the Lisbon summit and a "yes" vote in France, would give good reason to believe that the gilt market would be on course for a further rally. However, if further cracks should appear in the Maastricht edifice, all bets are off.

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COMMENT

Focus is back on future of Lloyds

Midland Bank had been cast as a merger candidate long before the approach by Lloyds persuaded the Hongkong Bank to revive its shelved plans. This was less the consequence of Midland's straitened financial circumstances than its absence of an independent long-term strategy. Having been left out of the earlier round of clearing bank mergers and having rejected the status of also-ran in British retail banking, Midland became embroiled in initiatives that varied from disappointing to disastrous and painted itself into a corner. After Lloyds' misconceived intervention in the Hongkong Bank's solution to Midland's dilemma, however, it is Lloyds that now looks bereft of a long-term strategy. But if Midland failed through ambition, Lloyds has succeeded through modesty.

Under the tough-minded leadership of Sir Jeremy Morse and Brian Pitman, Lloyds sold its North American retail banks, pulled out of the Far East and disposed of most of the former Lloyds Bank Europe. It prudently stayed out of the bidding when the securities industry was up for auction before the Stock Exchange Big Bang, quickly withdrew from the ensuing over-competitive markets and limited itself to a modest home-grown merchant bank. This strategy has saved Lloyds' shareholders an awful lot of money. In 1991, Lloyds made more profit than Barclays and Natwest combined. This same hard-headed approach led Lloyds to huff off its consumer credit, estate agency, unit trust, insurance broking and life assurance businesses into the more focused and practised management of Lloyds Abbey Life, producing another enviable success.

Having concentrated its mind, Lloyds has also been able to concentrate on managing its core retail banking operations, rationalising, cutting out fat and leading its competitors in coping with new sources of retail competition. Lloyds is thinning its branch network assiduously, despite starting with fewer outlets than its nearest competitors. It led in offering interest on current accounts, but also in charging for credit cards, charging more for itemised services to remove cross-subsidy, in fees to small businesses and in reining back potentially problematic small business loans. Big corporate lending is seen as a necessary evil, high-value private customers are cultivated and, across the board, Lloyds has been prepared to alienate unprofitable customers. Its net interest margins have consistently been higher than those of its traditional competitors.

There are inevitably limits to the extent that more can be squeezed from less. Mr Pitman plans to lose nearly 3,000 more jobs this year, but the strategy of buying Midland acknowledged that lower spending growth, lower inflation and interest rates limited the underlying growth of UK retail banking profits. Given traditional banking loyalties, its off-putting image among potential customers and its own choosiness, Lloyds could hardly expect to build its customer base significantly by its own efforts. Its answer was to repeat the management treatment at Midland.

The dilemma remains. The Morse/Pitman partnership is coming to an end with no permanent succession yet in place. Critics suggest that the logical conclusion of their emphasis on maximising value for shareholders would be for Lloyds itself to be sold for the high price its clean operation and well-drilled management could command. Otherwise, Lloyds needs either to buy more UK customers by buying a smaller rival, to expand its overseas operations, as it failed to do in its bid for Standard Chartered, or to widen its long-term business spread as Barclays has through the BZW investment bank. In the process it would surely not attempt a third hostile bid.

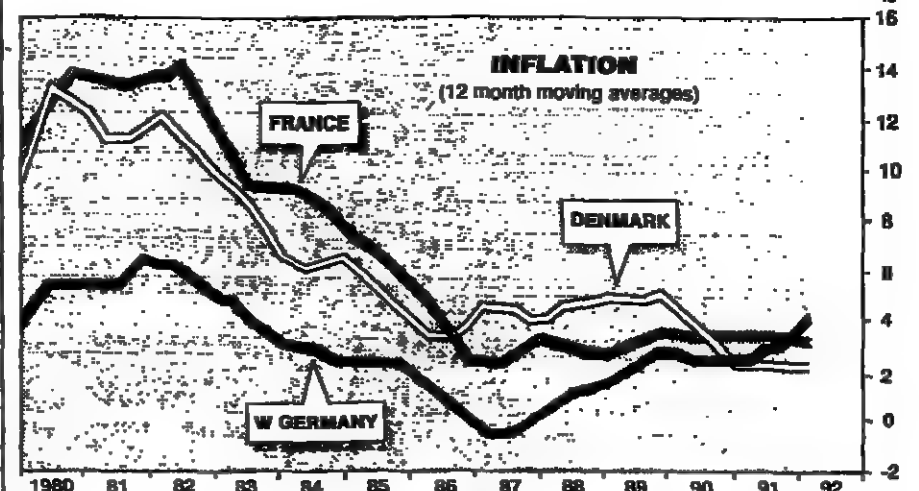
Anatole Kaletsky considers the implications of the no vote in Denmark on the future of Europe

General de Gaulle was right. Denmark, Britain and the other peripheral trouble-makers should never have been admitted into a Europe trying to forge an "ever closer union". If the Irish and French referendums clearly approve the Maastricht treaty, this unspeakable thought will remain safely repressed in Europe's political subconscious. The Danish debacle will prove a storm in a teacup, and there will be huge profits for the brave investors who bought last week when the whole world was selling gilts, Spanish, Italian and ecu bonds. But if the Danish vote stirs up anti-Maastricht feeling in Germany and France, the consequences could be more dramatic than anything politicians are willing to discuss aloud.

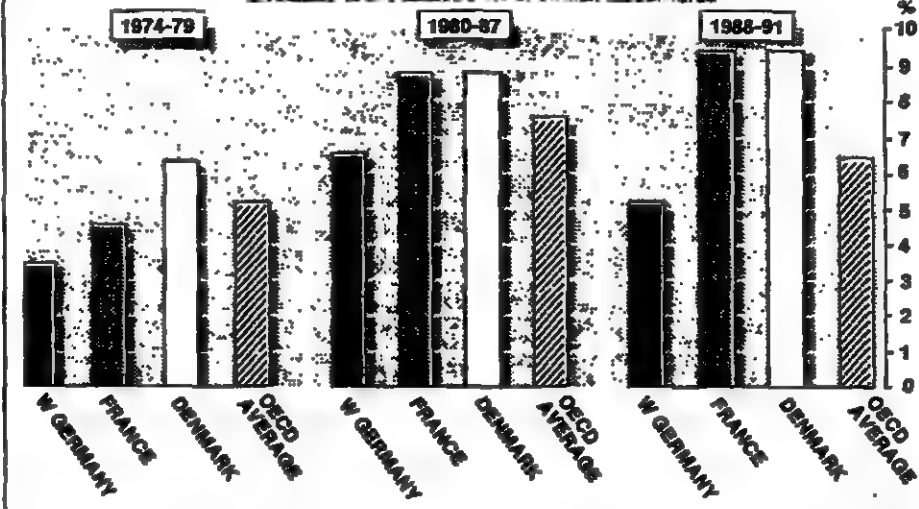
At the very least, the exchange-rate mechanism in its present form would cease to function. Although the ERM existed for 12 years before Maastricht, it only became a system of permanently stable exchange-rates from 1987 onwards, and it was repeatedly challenged by markets until the prospect of monetary union appeared on the political horizon. The long run-up to Maastricht, and not just the signing of the treaty itself, was what convinced investors European exchange-rates might be permanently fixed, transforming devaluation-prone ecus, lire, pesetas and pounds into high-yielding bargains. If the goal of EMU were now abandoned, ERM's credibility would revert to its state in 1987, not in 1991.

But how serious is the threat to Maastricht? Given the recent record of opinion polls, it would be rash to anticipate the results of the French referendum that will probably make or break any attempt to salvage the treaty. But for investors who have to anticipate such events, three rarely mentioned points seem worth noting. First, there is "realpolitik". Whatever the Treaty of Rome may say about unanimity, the idea that Denmark could ultimately override the self-interest of the

CONVERGENCE BUT AT A PRICE



UNEMPLOYMENT % of civilian labour force



great powers of Europe is absurd. In fact, the European foreign ministers have already stumbled on a plausible approach: simply to ignore Denmark.

Only when every other country has formally ratified, is Denmark's signature required to put the Maastricht treaty into effect. The first practical step agreed at Maastricht does not need to be taken until January 1994, with the creation of the European Monetary Institute. Until then, EC officials could continue to prepare for union, precisely as if the treaty were already in effect. A second Danish referendum could be held anytime after the ratification by all the other EC countries was completed. By then a new question would be perfectly justifiable, given that the other 11 countries would have formally agreed to create a European Union. For example, the Danish people could be asked: "Do you want Denmark to withdraw from the European Community when

it is renamed the European Union?" Even in Denmark, to ask this question, will probably be to answer it.

Provided the other EC countries genuinely want a European Union, therefore, Denmark alone will not stop them. The real issue is whether the German parliament uses Denmark as an excuse to back away from Maastricht. For all the huffing and puffing in the press and opinion polls about "giving up" the mark, the German position, in turn, will probably depend on whether

the French people confound President Mitterrand and all the pundits and vote "non". This raises the second rarely mentioned issue. Why should the vote in Denmark catalyse anti-Maastricht feeling in the rest of Europe, especially in Germany and France? Denmark has long been the most anti-federalist country in Europe, and even there the margin was hair-splittingly close. Furthermore, the Danish vote was not just a vote against Europe. It was also a vote against the extreme defla-

tion suffered by the Danish economy as the price for monetary convergence. It may be only subliminal, but the Danes must realise that apart from their farmers they have not done particularly well out of Europe and have done particularly badly as a result of the ERM. Danish inflation has converged to the German level and below (see charts). But the cost, in terms of unemployment and lost output has been appalling. Denmark, in fact, has had the slowest growing economy in continental Europe for the past four years and has suffered a collapse in the property market that makes the situation in London look like a boom.

In France, by contrast, the impact of the ERM has also been a dire one and the much-vaunted victory over inflation has been won at an unacceptable cost. But there is one huge difference between the French and Danish attitudes to ERM and EMU. For France, the whole point of EMU is to give the French government an influence over European monetary policy, which is denied it in the present German-centred structure of the ERM. In France, therefore, EMU is quite clearly seen as a salvation from the excessive rigours of monetary convergence for the Danes it is simply more of the same.

More fundamentally, the concept of European union has a historic resonance in France and Germany that is hard to imagine in places like Britain and Scandinavia, which have remained on the sidelines of Europe for a thousand years. From Charlemagne, through Napoleon and Bismarck to Hitler, the entire histories of France and Germany have been about creating pan-European empires and unions. The history of Britain, by contrast, has been about colonising the new world and avoiding permanent entanglements in Europe. It seems less likely, therefore, that the French or German people, will react to the idea of a federal Europe

with the same visceral suspicion and hostility as Britons or Scandinavians.

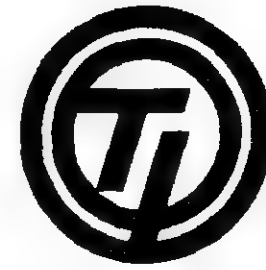
This leads to my third observation. If France and Germany reject the Maastricht treaty, it will be because many of their people and politicians want a tighter federation, rather than a looser one. Already this desire has been manifested in the Franco-German military corps created against the wishes of Britain and most Nato countries. But if Maastricht collapsed, the Franco-German co-operation would probably accelerate, especially in monetary policy. A subgroup of countries, including Germany, France and Benelux might well move even faster towards monetary union than agreed at Maastricht.

The main question for the inner monetary core of Europe would be which other countries to admit. There would also be no question of "cohesion funds" to transfer resources from the richer northern European countries to poorer southern ones as a reward for joining the monetary club. In fact, far from bribing new countries to join, this club's membership policy would be "strictly by invitation only". The main condition the Bundesbank would lay down for membership would be for far more centralised control over fiscal policy from the Euro-federal level than in the Maastricht treaty. For Britain, these fiscal criteria would almost certainly preclude membership, not because the government would be unable to meet the guidelines, but because it would refuse to submit its tax and spending policies to European control. In Italy, by contrast, a fiscal straitjacket for the local politicians would be welcomed by central bankers and voters, but even by the politicians themselves. Oddly enough, if Maastricht failed, the inner core of Europe might look remarkably like the community General de Gaulle had in mind.

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DEBRA ISAAC

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A picture of distress

ACUTE unhappiness has not stopped one reader of *The Times* from responding with wit to the calamities at Lloyd's of London. Addy Pritchard, a graphic designer, was prompted to send in today's cartoon in the City Diary after seeing a suggestion in our letters page that Lloyd's should consider using the increasingly empty upper floors of its high-tech headquarters to house the many names facing homelessness. The Pritchard family may soon be forced to sell their London home, she says, after being "wiped out" by Lloyd's cash calls in the last year. "We haven't ever had a penny from Lloyd's," she adds. "Now we can't afford private schools for the children and we will have to sell our house." In the circumstances, the fact that her cartoon was inspired by the old war song about the Siegfried Line seems apt.



"We're going to hang out the washing on the Lime Street line, have you any dirty washing, Coleridge dear?"

Bowled over

TITMUS Sainer & Webb, the City solicitor, has scored something of a legal century. It has just been taken on by the Pakistan cricket team to represent it during the current Test series — news that will do nothing for the already frayed nerves of England cricket officials. The solicitor's coup came after it placed an ad in the Test & County Cricket Board tour guide to drum up business. "We little expected that the first respondent would be the touring side itself," says Stephen Fielding, a barrister who has only recently joined the firm as its first business development director. The fact that England's Ian Botham last week dropped his threat-

ened legal action against Pakistan's Javed Miandad was, Fielding adds, "purely coincidental" to the firm's appointment. But he admits TS&W is on standby should the threat of writs recur.

Mads — for real

HAVING a memorable name should make Mads Aspren an instant hit when he joins Morgan Stanley today as its new packaging analyst but Aspren could have some explaining to do. Most Londoners apparently think Mads is some great preppy nickname picked up in an American university. It is, in fact, a quite common Danish name, pronounced "Mats", much in use in Norway, from where

Aspren hails. Aspren says it will not be his first time his christian name has attracted attention. "Mads was one of the names found scrawled on the desks at Drexel Burnham when they cleared it out," he says. "Everyone thought it was an American nickname then too."

Less majesty

WHAT John Cleese's Video Arts group did for corporate videos in the 1980s a new company called The Right Treatment is aiming to do in the 1990s. Writer-in-residence is ex-Cambridge Footlights man Kim Harris who has recently written a screenplay for Franco Zeffirelli and who has come up with a highly original

video to promote the company's wares. Possibly the most striking aspect of the 90-second promo is the failure of its two billed celebrity guest artists, comic actor Stephen Fry and Princess Michael of Kent, to make any appearance whatsoever on the screen. But Fry did contribute a typically witty voice-over and was among the celebrants radiating *bien être* at the company's launch party last week — which is more than can be said of his royal "co-star". According to Fry, Princess Michael was a joy to work with. "She showed me more consideration than I could possibly have hoped for," he says. "I look forward to meeting her one day."

Mine host

Accountancy firm Touche Ross is managing so many hotels in receivership that it believes it is one of the most efficient UK hotel operators. Drie de Vaal, who runs the firm's hotel consultancy arm, Greene Belfield-Smith, says the firm's bulk buying power is such it can negotiate mass discounts from caterers and suppliers that instantly feed through to the bottom line, transforming hotel balance sheets. The firm has 30 hotels, 18 pubs, restaurants, golf courses, and a water theme park. "Our combined buying power with brewers means we can sell beer cheaper than anyone else in the country," de Vaal says. The effect on profits, he adds, is one reason why Touche Ross can sell hotels at reasonable prices despite the recession. While insolvencies in the trade have risen 40 per cent since January, Touche Ross has sold eight hotels in the same period.

Duckington looks on handy mark

DUCKINGTON, who displayed signs of a return to his best form last time, is napped to record his first success of the season in the Buttercross Handicap at Pontefract this afternoon.

That run was at Doncaster where, in a competitive race won by Nordic Brave, he was always keeping tabs on the leaders and kept on well close home to finish some two lengths behind the winner.

The form is all the more eye-catching for the fact that the second and third were Deprecator and Sharpato, who are both running well at the moment.

Although that race was over seven furlongs, there are sound reasons for believing that this drop back to six furlongs will not unduly in-

convenience Duckington. Pontefract has a thoroughly testing uphill finish, and his proven stamina at the trip will be in his favour. He should also be assured of a strong gallop with the front-running Cronk's Courage in the field.

Another point in his favour is that the handicapper has dropped Duckington 5lb since the start of the season. Cronk's Courage continues to run well and he put up another solid effort when a length and a half second to Love Legend at Chester last month. He, however, has paid the penalty for that consistency and is now 20lb higher in the weights than

when winning at Hamilton in April. Densben won a competitive handicap at Redcar last month but he too is higher in the weights, 6lb, and another minus point is that he rarely runs two races alike.

Pageboy disappointed last time but could be given a chance on his second to Windpower over this course and distance in April, although a greater danger might well be Nur. Tom Jones's horses are running into form and Nur, twice a winner last term, can be expected to improve on her seasonal debut.

In the Pontefract Cup, Seldom In is taken to confirm Wolverhampton placings with stable companion Creeager. Although Creeager is

5lb better for a three-quarters of a length defeat, he still has his share of weight and Seldom In is likely to improve for the Wolverhampton race, his first for eight months.

He also ran well next time when third to Sea Goddess at Haydock over a mile and three-quarters, and will be better suited by this longer trip.

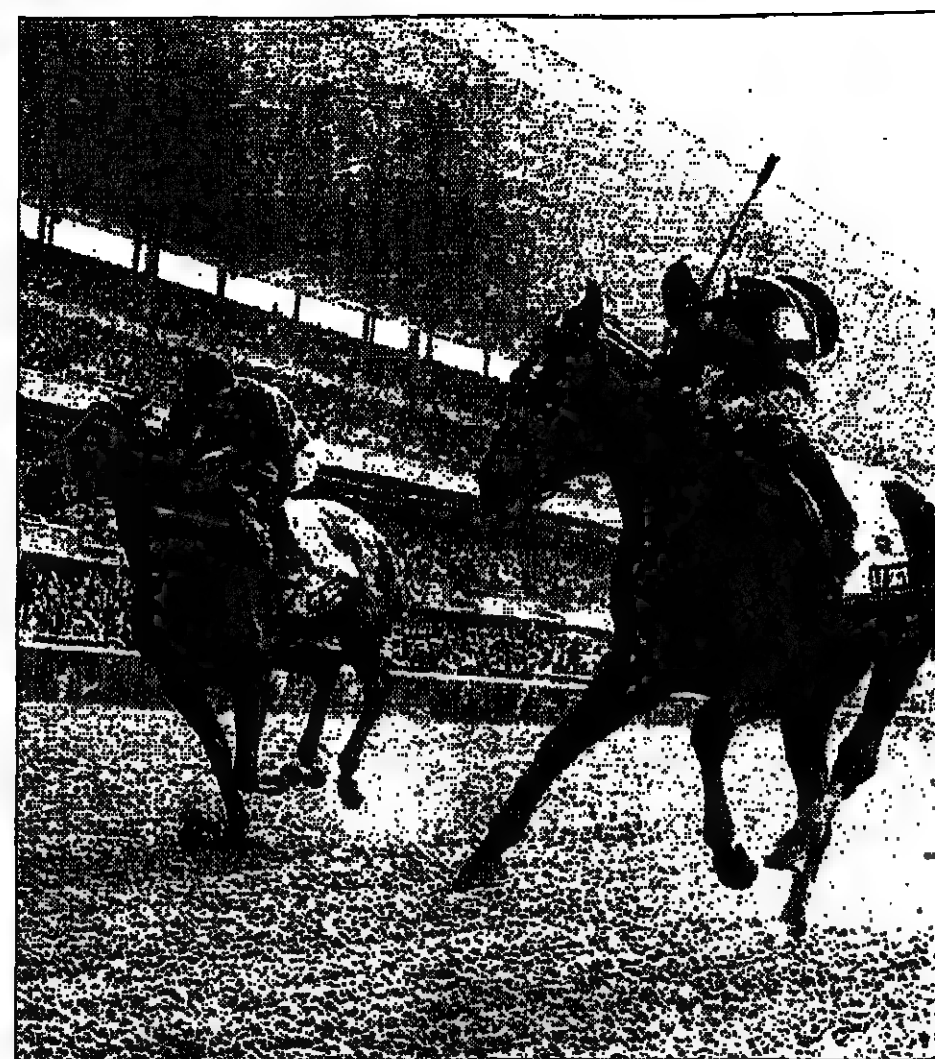
Little Too Much, a \$155,000 son of Storm Bird, was a beaten favourite at Goodwood on his debut but, with the experience behind him, can take advantage of the weight concession from four previous winners in the Youngsters Stakes.

At Nottingham, the Loudham Stakes has cut up disappointingly to just two runners, Dilum and Lead

The Dance. Dilum looked an outstanding prospect after winning at Royal Ascot and Goodwood last season but failed to progress in the second half of the year. He was well beaten in the 2,000 Guineas on his return.

At his best he would be hard to oppose but in a race which is not one to get too heavily involved in from a betting point of view, Lead The Dance, himself a useful juvenile, looks a safer proposition in receipt of 7lb.

Fighter Squadron is in fine fettle and he looks the answer to the Sandiacre Handicap. He beat Educated Pet by two lengths on the all-weather track at Southwell last month and, as the runner-up has gone on to win twice since, the form looks sound.



Favourite A P Indy, right, holds off the Richard Hannon-trained My Memoirs to take the Belmont Stakes, final leg of the Triple Crown, at Belmont Park

My Memoirs rewards Hannon's enterprise

RICHARD Hannon's ambitious trip to the United States paid a handsome dividend when My Memoirs snatched second place in the Belmont Stakes, the final leg of the American Triple Crown, at Belmont Park on Saturday night.

The colt, a winner on his previous outing of Chester's Dee Stakes, earned connections more than £87,000 when failing by just three-quarters of a length to catch A P Indy, trained by British-born Neil Drysdale.

Roared on by a 50,000 crowd, A P Indy's jockey Eddie Delahoussaye waited un-

til inside the final furlong before producing A P Indy, the 11-10 favourite, to overhaul Pine Bluff.

My Memoirs, partnered by Jerry Bailey, stayed on to deprive Pine Bluff of second place by a neck with Steve Cauthen fourth on the Andre Fabre-trained Cristoforo.

"A P Indy does everything right. He's determined — a true racehorse," Delahoussaye said. "It's a shame he got hurt because I think he would've won the Triple Crown."

The son of Seattle Slew and grandson of Secretariat would have started second

favourite behind Arazzi for the Kentucky Derby but was taken out on the morning of the race with a crack in his near fore hoof. Drysdale then opted not to enter him in the Preakness Stakes.

Although A P Indy earned connections more than £250,000 for this, his seventh consecutive success, it was Pine Bluff who had the best evening financially.

His third place followed victory in the Preakness and a fifth place in the Kentucky Derby, leaving his owner John Anthony as the winner of the \$1 million (£546,000) Triple Crown challenge, awarded to the horse which does best overall in the three races.

Belmont result

Belmont Stakes (Grade 1, 3-Y-O, 22.5 fms, 1m 40 yds)
1. A P INDY (P. Hannon) 11-10, 1m 40 yds, 2m 20 yds, 3m 20 yds, 4m 20 yds, 5m 20 yds, 6m 20 yds, 7m 20 yds, 8m 20 yds, 9m 20 yds, 10m 20 yds, 11m 20 yds, 12m 20 yds, 13m 20 yds, 14m 20 yds, 15m 20 yds, 16m 20 yds, 17m 20 yds, 18m 20 yds, 19m 20 yds, 20m 20 yds, 21m 20 yds, 22m 20 yds, 23m 20 yds, 24m 20 yds, 25m 20 yds, 26m 20 yds, 27m 20 yds, 28m 20 yds, 29m 20 yds, 30m 20 yds, 31m 20 yds, 32m 20 yds, 33m 20 yds, 34m 20 yds, 35m 20 yds, 36m 20 yds, 37m 20 yds, 38m 20 yds, 39m 20 yds, 40m 20 yds, 41m 20 yds, 42m 20 yds, 43m 20 yds, 44m 20 yds, 45m 20 yds, 46m 20 yds, 47m 20 yds, 48m 20 yds, 49m 20 yds, 50m 20 yds, 51m 20 yds, 52m 20 yds, 53m 20 yds, 54m 20 yds, 55m 20 yds, 56m 20 yds, 57m 20 yds, 58m 20 yds, 59m 20 yds, 60m 20 yds, 61m 20 yds, 62m 20 yds, 63m 20 yds, 64m 20 yds, 65m 20 yds, 66m 20 yds, 67m 20 yds, 68m 20 yds, 69m 20 yds, 70m 20 yds, 71m 20 yds, 72m 20 yds, 73m 20 yds, 74m 20 yds, 75m 20 yds, 76m 20 yds, 77m 20 yds, 78m 20 yds, 79m 20 yds, 80m 20 yds, 81m 20 yds, 82m 20 yds, 83m 20 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MONDAY JUNE 8 1992

Wright's injury is latest blow for Taylor



Wright: irresponsible

FROM STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN MALMO

MARK Wright may today become the third member of England's disintegrating squad to be withdrawn from the European championship. Even before being re-examined by the specialist who operated on his Achilles tendon nine months ago, he has already been ruled out of the first round games.

Like John Barnes and Gary Stevens, he faces elimination from the tournament and under circumstances which endanger his international future while Graham Taylor is in charge. For rank irresponsibility Wright has in-

flamed much more than the injury which kept him out for the first three months of his first season with Liverpool.

Although he felt a stiffening of the lower limb last Thursday morning, no attempt to contact Taylor was made for more than 48 hours. Liverpool must also stand accused of a staggering lack of co-operation. Nor is it the first time Wright and his club have been less than compliant.

Instead of travelling to Hungary for supposedly the last of England's experimental outings, he was parading the FA Cup around the city streets. The decision cost him a place in the side for the subsequent glamorous fixture

against Brazil at Wembley and he may pay more dearly for his latest misadventure.

There can be no defence for his and Liverpool's apparent failure to appreciate either the urgency of the matter or the complications that might be caused by his injury. The timetable of their actions is likely to stir the interest at least of the Football Association's international board.

The first message to the England officials was relayed by Wright himself to Lawrie McMenamy, his former manager at Southampton who is now Taylor's assistant, at five o'clock on Saturday. That was less than 24 hours before the party was scheduled to depart for their coun-

tryside hotel in southern Sweden.

Taylor was immediately informed and was even more startled to hear that there were no plans for Wright to see the specialist in London until today. The England manager spent the next six hours on the telephone contacting Liverpool's officials as well as potential central defensive replacements.

Wright was persuaded to travel without delay to the team's hotel at Luton. He arrived at midnight and was examined by the England doctor, John Crane, early yesterday morning. The initial fears were then realised, although they will not be confirmed until, in Taylor's

words, "some time" today.

He spoke to Phil Boersma, the Liverpool physiotherapist, to Peter Robinson, the chief executive, and, an hour before the flight here, to Graeme Souness, the manager who is on holiday recuperating from his triple bypass heart operation. Taylor, though, was still waiting to hear when Wright's appointment will be. Unless he requires another operation straight away, he will have to travel in Sweden to be seen by a UEFA doctor. Only then can England — who have already been allowed to call in Andy Sinton and Keith Curle as emergency understudies — apply for yet another substitute to be summoned.

If compassion is shown again, Tony Adams will benefit. Although he has just returned from holiday and is preparing for his wedding in five weeks, his response to Taylor's appeal was convincing. "He said three words I wanted to hear," the England manager said. "Look, I'm ready."

Nevertheless, Adams was discarded long ago. He was first considered by Bobby Robson not only as a central defender but one that the then England manager felt would be destined eventually for the international captaincy. But Adams was dropped after scoring the equaliser and thus sparing Robson — and England — profound

embarrassment, in Saudi Arabia four years ago, since when he has been chosen by Taylor only twice, both times in European championship qualifying ties against the Republic of Ireland. In the second game, 15 months ago, he was withdrawn at half-time. Other candidates, such as Gary Mabbutt and Gary Pallister, would have been more suitable but they were unavailable.

Without Wright for at least the first three games, Taylor must clearly reconsider his sweeper system. He has used it ten times so far in his 21 internationals.

More football, page 28

Lifeless pitch allows batsmen to prosper

Stewart steers England on path to safety

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (fourth day of five): England, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 276 runs behind Pakistan.

FIVE days would probably not have been enough to resolve this first Test match but in three it may barely reach halfway. Today, the batting with which England timidly crammed their team will surely rubber-stamp the stalemate and it is doubtful if more than a handful of Friday's malcontents will exercise their right to free admission.

There has been a suspicion

of futility about the cricket since the weather permitted only two balls to be bowled on the first two days, and it was not even overcome by the statistical and aesthetic delights of a record-breaking stand of 322 between Javed Miandad and Salim Malik.

It ensured that Pakistan could not lose but, on a pitch of soporific docility, their first Test win on this ground remained a remote prospect. For England to be dismissed twice in nine hours required batting of stunning ineptitude, a fear which Alec Stewart and Graeme Hick capably put to rest.

Stewart, who grows in stature with each game he plays,

is within six runs of his fourth century in five Tests and has seldom batted with more poise. Hick, whose stature had been shrinking as fast as Stewart's rose, at last broke the barrier of a Test fifty, in his thirteenth innings.

It ended with a disappointing shot against a ball of no great menace and yet, if no game has achieved nothing else for England, the psychological gain for a man in whom rampant self-doubts were smothering rare talent could be far-reaching.

In a match which has so far produced 616 runs and only six wickets, it is perversely the case that nobody involved will be more dismayed than the groundsmen. Andy Atkinson's relayed pitch was, of course, the great unknown



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Smart work: Russell removes Miandad's balls in an attempt at a stumping at Edgbaston yesterday

three seamers seldom threatened to take a wicket.

Lewis did have two catches put down, and a third taken off a no-ball, but he bowled without fire or control. His unacceptable tally of 14 no-balls was equalled by Pringle, who lacks the pace or penetration for a good Test pitch when the ball declines to swing. As for Botham, he did a manful containing job on Saturday but it cost him a groin strain and, yesterday, he did not emerge from the

dressing-room, which, in the circumstances, he may have considered the best place to be.

Unless you happen to be on the receiving end, there are few more attractive spectacles in the game than Miandad and Malik in tandem, the one watchfully working the ball into gaps, the other wristily dismissing it from his genial presence. Miandad is artful, Malik artistic and together they paint a broad and absorbing canvas.

Their stand was the highest for any wicket in Tests between these countries and, if it had fortune on its side with Miandad being missed three times and Malik once, it also contained a high percentage of flawless strokes.

Miandad's century was his first for more than two years but, when he declared in mid-afternoon, he was proceeding remorselessly towards what would have been a seventh double-century in Tests. Smith, who missed a sharp

chance at short leg when Miandad was on one, may feel he owes his side some runs today.

Before lunch, Hick and Gooch, who between them have snared two first-class wickets this season, were bowling together. Malik showed no mercy but, having been put down by Russell off an agonised DeFreitas on 158, he played down the wrong line to him seven runs later.

Soon, Gooch and Hick

were doing what comes more naturally. Gooch looked rusty, as befitted a man who has been allowed only three first-class innings before June 7, and when he was taken off bat and pad for eight, Hick had a predictably daunting welcome.

He survived to prosper, playing shots which Malik and Miandad would not have spurned in a second-wicket stand of 93. Thereafter, the evening belonged to Stewart. His last six scoring shots were consummately struck fours and, by the close, his Surrey team-mate, Waqar, was looking raggedly weary.

John Woodcock, page 28
Gloucestershire win, page 28

LEADING TEST BATTING SCORES									
Test	Runs	Wickets	Runs	Wickets	Runs	Wickets	Runs	Wickets	Runs
S M Gavekar	125	214	10	10122	236	34	51.13		
A R Border	120	224	42	9532	205	23	52.37		
I V A Richards	121	162	12	8540	291	24	80.28		
Javed Miandad	118	170	20	8254	280	23	55.02		
G Boycott	108	153	23	8114	240	22	47.72		
D J Gower	114	189	10	8081	215	18	44.15		
G S Sobers	88	180	21	8052	360	28	57.78		
M C Cowdrey	114	188	15	7824	182	22	44.08		
C G Greenidge	108	185	16	7558	226	16	44.72		
C H Lloyd	110	175	14	7518	242	19	48.67		
W R Hammond	88	140	15	7248	330	22	53.45		
G A Gooch	95	172	8	7107	333	16	43.36		

* Changes not out

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NORWICH UNION

Drechsler linked with state drug programme

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

HEIKE Drechsler, the long jump silver medal winner at the last world championships and Olympics, is tonight named in a television documentary that shows how East Germany sponsored its drug-taking programme during the 1970s and 1980s.

Drechsler, who has been one of the world's most prominent athletes for almost a decade, was code-named W61 in East Germany's clandestine State Plan 14.25, "a meticulously run doping programme", according to the documentary. Udo Beyer, the former Olympic shot champion, and Marita Koch, the former

Olympic 400 metres champion, are also identified. The athletes named all deny taking the drugs.

In BBC's *Horizon: A Question of Sport*, attention is drawn to a graph taken from secret documents uncovered by Werner Franke, a West German molecular biologist, showing how Drechsler's performance "improved dramatically from 1982 to 1984, even though her steroid dosage went down".

The documentary also contains an interview with Dr Winfried Schaker, a scientist at the elite sports research institute in Leipzig and, more significant, an admission of involvement from Dr Manfred Hoopner, who was a serving member of the In-

ternational Olympic Committee (IOC) doping commission. "East Germany set up a drugs control laboratory which was licensed by the IOC," the documentary says. "But security under the State Plan was used to screen elite doped athletes before they travelled to competitions overseas to make sure they were clean. The coded messages were received by him [Hoopner]."

Franke's discovery of these and papers kept under an operation conducted with Teutonic efficiency was reported in *The Times* last year.

"The biggest mistake that we made was that we noted everything down very conscientiously, and that is why we

are now at the centre of media attention, as though we had been the only ones in the world who broke the rules of sport," Hoopner tells *Horizon*.

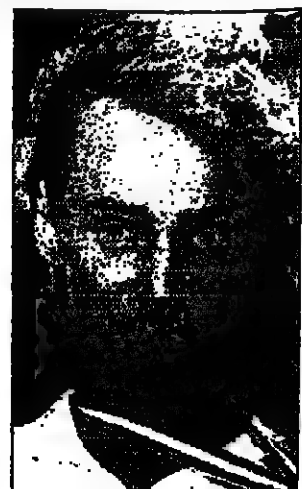
Franke has put names to the code numbers by studying the athletes' performance charts. "Some of the performances that were identical to, or close to, the world record were pretty easy to identify," he says. "We were helped by back issues of athletics newspapers of the GDR, so that we could compare each individual performance with that coded athlete and thereby identify the athlete."

The documents in his possession list 250 sportsmen and women. Of Koch, the

documentary says that her drug doses were precisely recorded. Her dosage quantities are stated in detail. The programme refers to athlete LS42. "It could only be Koch," it says, noting that the coded athlete's 200 metres times for 1982 and 1983 were 21.76sec and 21.82.

Beyer is said to have been given, at the same time as taking steroids, a hormone which normally stimulates contractions in pregnant women. "We established that Udo Beyer was not the competitive type," Schaker says. "It [the drug] focused his mind on the job." Schaker lost his position after German unification.

UK championships, page 27



Drechsler: named

★ 1X RK



ARTS p3

Stockard

Channing,
the muse of
New York

LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY JUNE 8 1992

EXPLORING p5

Footsore and
fancy free
with Robin
Neillands

Is everybody sitting uncomfortably?

As more than a million children sit test papers today and tomorrow, John O'Leary asks if we are putting pupils and schools to too great a test

The examination halls of Britain will be bulging as never before today and tomorrow. More than one million children will be facing some form of exam, either testing under the national curriculum, or sitting GCSEs or A-levels.

This will be the first time that an entire age group — 14-year-olds taking part in the national curriculum — has been tested simultaneously and it is part of a development which within two years will make our children the most examined in Europe. It reflects a return to the long-standing British obsession with exams, which has been largely dormant since the 11-plus disappeared and O-levels gave way to GCSE, which relies heavily on teacher assessment.

Today's national curriculum tests mark the beginning of a process that education reformers see as vital to the raising of standards of both pupils and schools. Many teachers and administrators, however, fear that the process may eventually collapse under its own weight.

By 1994 not only will such tests be held for 11-year-olds and the 10 per cent or so of 16-year-olds not considered suitable for the GCSE, but the GCSE itself will become much more heavily reliant on examinations, rather than coursework.

Even in the heyday of the 11-plus, there was never such a concentration of examining as during the next two days. Tomorrow, the busiest day, sees the nation's 14-year-olds tackling mathematics, as their brothers and sisters take GCSEs in physics, English literature and PE, or A-levels in English and German. The popular myth that the French could tell what schoolchildren all over the country were doing at any time of the day will be true temporarily in England and Wales.

By next year, the burden on 14-year-olds will be even greater as another two subjects — geography and history — are tested under the national curriculum, stretching the exam period to four days. At the same time, the first 11-year-olds will join the process, although the form and timing of their tests is yet to be determined. By 1994, with the addition of further subjects, a foreign language, and possibly others, there might be at least a full week of examinations, dealing with one subject each day.

Teachers are groaning at the prospect of the stress to be put on themselves, the pupils and the system. George Wisdon, the head teacher at Westwood High School, in Leek, Staffordshire, says: "We will certainly have difficulty in future years. This is almost the worst time to have the tests, with GCSE in full swing and more than a month to go before the end of term. An atmosphere is created in which pupils think the year is over because the exams have finished."



Testing the system: classrooms and gymnasiums across the country will today be crammed like this hall at the Orpington College of Further Education

The School Examinations and Assessment Council (SEAC) organised for weeks over the timing of the tests, charged by Kenneth Clarke, then education secretary, with finding the latest possible date to avoid the "end of term" syndrome. Today was dictated by the growing diversity in the organisation of the school year. Schools in three authorities break up before the end of the month, and marking must be completed in time for reports to be compiled.

Most of the 14-year-olds taking science this morning will never have experienced anything like it. Their counterparts in years to come will be well practised, however. For them a full state education will be punctuated by five full assessments or examinations — at the ages of seven, 11, 14, 16 and 18 (A level).

The national curriculum is organised so that parents (and politicians) can trace the progress of pupils from five to 16, and judge their schools accordingly. Achievement is measured, by tests and teacher assessment prior to tests, in ten "levels", each representing the stage an average pupil is expected to reach at a given age.

Seven year-olds are expected to reach Level Two, which requires fluent reading and simple spelling, for example, but may attempt the next two levels if they are successful. Level Four represents the standard of the average 11-year-old, reading more complicated passages and writing structured stories. However,

many of those 14-year-olds taking today's tests will only have reached this standard. Although Levels Five or Six are considered average for a 14-year-old, slower learners will take easier papers, while the brightest will sit tests designed for pupils two years older.

Parents will be bombarded with every detail of their children's performance in re-modelled annual school reports. As the number of subjects for "assessment", as the process of assessment and testing is now described, grows there will be an explosion in the number of individual items to be marked by schools.

Although assessment at seven (and probably 11) will be compulsory only in the "core subjects" of mathematics, science and English, testing at 14 will cover geography, history and foreign languages, and possibly music, art and PE as well. Half of the independent schools have already exercised their right to opt out of this week's exercise, and will take some persuading to join later.

Some are reluctant to embark on an elaborate assessment procedure a year after their pupils have taken the Common Entrance exam, while others prefer the simpler end-

of-year tests they have always run.

"I think that the notion that parents would like to know what their children are achieving, and that schools have not always taken that as seriously as they should have done, has a strong element of truth. Independent schools are addressing that, but they do not want to be swamped by a massive structure of testing and quality audit," says Vivian Anthony, the secretary of the Headmasters' Conference, which represents leading independent schools. "We will dip our toes in the water, but if we see it as counter-productive, we simply will not do it."

A fifth of state schools have come to the same conclusion this year, although they will not have the option from 1993 onwards. "We will have to live with gyms and school halls being out of action for more and more of the summer term," says Peter Baldwin, a former president of the National Association of Head Teachers. "We will almost end up with two terms of teaching and one of assessment if we are not careful."

Ministers are pleased with the response to this week's pilot tests, and have postponed the compilation of league tables of local schools. The new approach goes further than other western European countries have ventured recently. In Germany, for example, assessment is carried out by class teachers throughout most of the school year, while France is slowly moving away from the centralisation first imposed by Napoleon. Only at the end of their school career will most students encounter a public examination.

In some other parts of the world, however, testing of a less elaborate kind than that produced for the

national curriculum still rules. American teenagers' prospects depend crucially on their performance in the Scholastic Aptitude Tests, which govern college entrance, while in Japan exams assume such importance that failure can be a reason for suicide.

Developing countries, too, tend to concentrate on exams, often of British origin. The Cambridge Examinations Syndicate, the most successful exporter in the field, now prints almost five million papers for use abroad, and has seen the market grow in recent years. In Zimbabwe, for example, 200,000 pupils sit Cambridge O-levels.

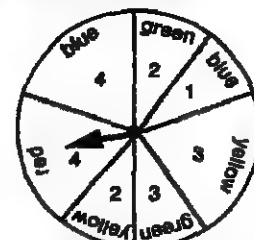
John Patten, the education secretary, has no doubts about the value of the new tests, and he said last week that most teachers also accepted the need for them. Some parents are beginning to have their doubts, however. The National Confederation of Parent-Teacher Organ-

isations, the largest parents' group, intends to raise the subject with ministers later this month. Margaret Morrissey, who chairs the association, says: "Parents were pretty positive about testing and wanted to know their children were getting on, but many are beginning to think we have gone a bit over the top. Do we really need a test at 14, for example?"

The cry from schools today, as pupils confront their papers and teachers contemplate an orgy of marking, doubtless will be that we do not. For the moment, however, the political consensus says otherwise.

Could you compete with a 14-year-old?

QUESTION* This spinner has different colours and numbers:



The table below shows the probability of the spinner stopping on the different colours and numbers.

Number	Probability
1	0.1
2	0.2
3	0.3
4	0.4

Colour	Probability
blue	0.3
green	0.2
red	0.2
yellow	0.3

Use the table and the picture of the spinner to work out the probability of spinning the following:

- A blue or a 2.
- A blue or a 4.
- A blue followed by a 4.
- A blue and a green (in either order).
- (b) and (c) both involve the outcomes getting a blue and getting a 4. Are the 2 outcomes independent? Explain why.

* A sample question: answers on page 7.

'It will have to be stopped because the amount of time is unjustifiable'

Chipped off the old office block

See them walk in a long, disconsolate file they go, eastward from bright Whitehall towards the grim dockland towers of Old London Wharf. "So many," as T.S. Eliot would say, "I had not thought death had undone so many..." It would seem, in other words, that the 4,000 civil servants earmarked for the Canary Wharf experience in east London are not entirely content with their lot. Barry Ramsbottom, the general secretary of their union, rather curiously observed: "We don't see why we should be dragged down the river to satisfy a private sector bungle."

To an outsider, it seems reasonable for the civil service to save us money and use up otherwise pointless office space. But Mr Ramsbottom's words will strike a deep chord in many, because this has been a nomadic decade for office workers. We had the 1980s boom with its mergers and takeovers and launches and regroupings, and now the 1990s recession bringing collapses and rescues and yet more takeovers.

All these things, whether fundamentally good or bad for business, always seem to entail hundreds of poor devils in office moves. No longer do companies engrave their names in stonework on the front, for their premises are just another

asset, and they may not be there long.

Merry-go-round relocation has become epidemic all over the capital city. Swiss cheese plants are dying of environmental confusion, and in the second-hand office equipment shops of the Old Kent Road in south London there are knee-hole desks which have been in liquidation half-a-dozen times. I was looking one over, and found a drawer still full of clients' letters. A friend of mine found a hard disc in a filing cabinet, idly plugged it into his computer and got an extremely useful mailing list. Someone may be missing these things.

One company I deal with has had five different offices since 1982, having been independent, merged, then assimilated and spat out by no fewer than three large corporate owners. Small publishing companies in particular are victims, with staff often pathetically ringing up writers to say, "We seem to have moved, we're in this tower thing in Croydon... all happened a bit suddenly, could you send another copy of the typescript down here?" Sometimes they feel so precarious they never even unpack the cardboard boxes, and so demoralised they can't be bothered to tack up the photographs of the staff party with rude speech-bub-

WORKING LIFE

Libby Purves finds sympathy for those forced to move



bles on, or the witty sign saying DONT ASK ME I ONLY WORK HERE. Since work, and journeys to work, are part of daily individual life, the personal effect can be immense as for the business effect. It would be interesting to have someone cost out on a national scale the expense of repeated office moves in terms of lost time, lost files, friction, and lateness of staff who took the wrong bus.

But perhaps you get used to it in the end, and develop a proud nomadic culture, pitching your computers like bedouin and enjoying the ever-changing view (and ever-changing excuse not to send out cheques on time). Perhaps — hence the fear and loathing of the civil servants — it is the first move which is the worst: the one which uproots you from tradition. Moving out of a cosy familiar old building makes people nervous and chippy and critical and rootless. It is astonishing to observe how people who have worked quite happily in disorganised, cobwebby and inconvenient surroundings for years will complain about trifles when transported to clean modern surroundings with state-of-the-art intelligent lighting and psychologically approved seating arrangements. It is the *shum clearance* programme all over again.

I speak with feeling, since for a period it looked as if Broadcasting House, that battleship-shaped building on Portland Place in central London, my intermittent base for twenty years, was going to banish the departments where I work two days a week to the White City. It was not only the inconvenience (certain people openly admit to choosing a career in radio largely because it is so handy for John

Lewis). It was love of the building itself. Not only does Lord Reith's wealth still walk the corridors, scowling at the management's periodic attempts to jazz them up with new paintwork, but the place is as comfortable as an old dressing-gown. Years ago on Long Beach, California, I toured that other 1930s monument, the Queen Mary, feeling strangely at home among the Bakelite and deco. It took half an hour to work out why.

We would have hated to lose those curving corridors, that strange smell of soap and armpits, mould and electronics: those glimpses through doors marked DANGER of Heath-Robinson pipework and yawning shafts to nowhere. Inconceivable to go to work without passing under the awful Eric Gill sculpture of Prospero and Ariel (off whose naked male member the artist was ordered to lop an inch or two for the sake of *pudeur*). With the rest of the battleship's crew, even I the part-timer quailed in fear.

We got our reprieve, and sail on safely for now. But spare a thought for those others, in other buildings, who by the storms of the restless modern age have been flung overboard lock, stock and rubber plant. Spare a thought for the reluctant new Canaries.

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Reborn at the heart of a play

Described as John Guare's 'muse', Stockard Channing stars in the UK premiere of Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation*. She spoke to Matt Wolf

The British may know Stockard Channing from her film work over a decade ago. But in New York in the meantime she has become a rare phenomenon: a theatre actress at home both in musicals and straight plays who is second to none when it comes to on-stage transcendence.

Playwright John Guare has given Channing two such sublime moments to close his last two plays. In the more recent *Four Baboons Adoring The Sun*, staged by Sir Peter Hall in New York this spring, the actress looks straight into the sun's blinding glare, lost in rapture even as her new-found family crumbles around her.

Guare's 1990 *Six Degrees of Separation* — the play with which Channing makes her British stage debut this week — gives its star a similar moment to stop the audience's heart. As the Manhattan matron Ouisa whose life is changed by the sudden arrival at her apartment of a black on arrival, Channing ends the play in a state of ecstatic born out of her newly-awakened imagination. For all the comparisons this play has prompted to Tom Wolfe's novel *The Bonfire Of The Vanities*, the actress embodies Guare's real subject. Clever and witty though it is, *Six Degrees* is less a satire than an exploration of Samaritanism and emotional rebirth.

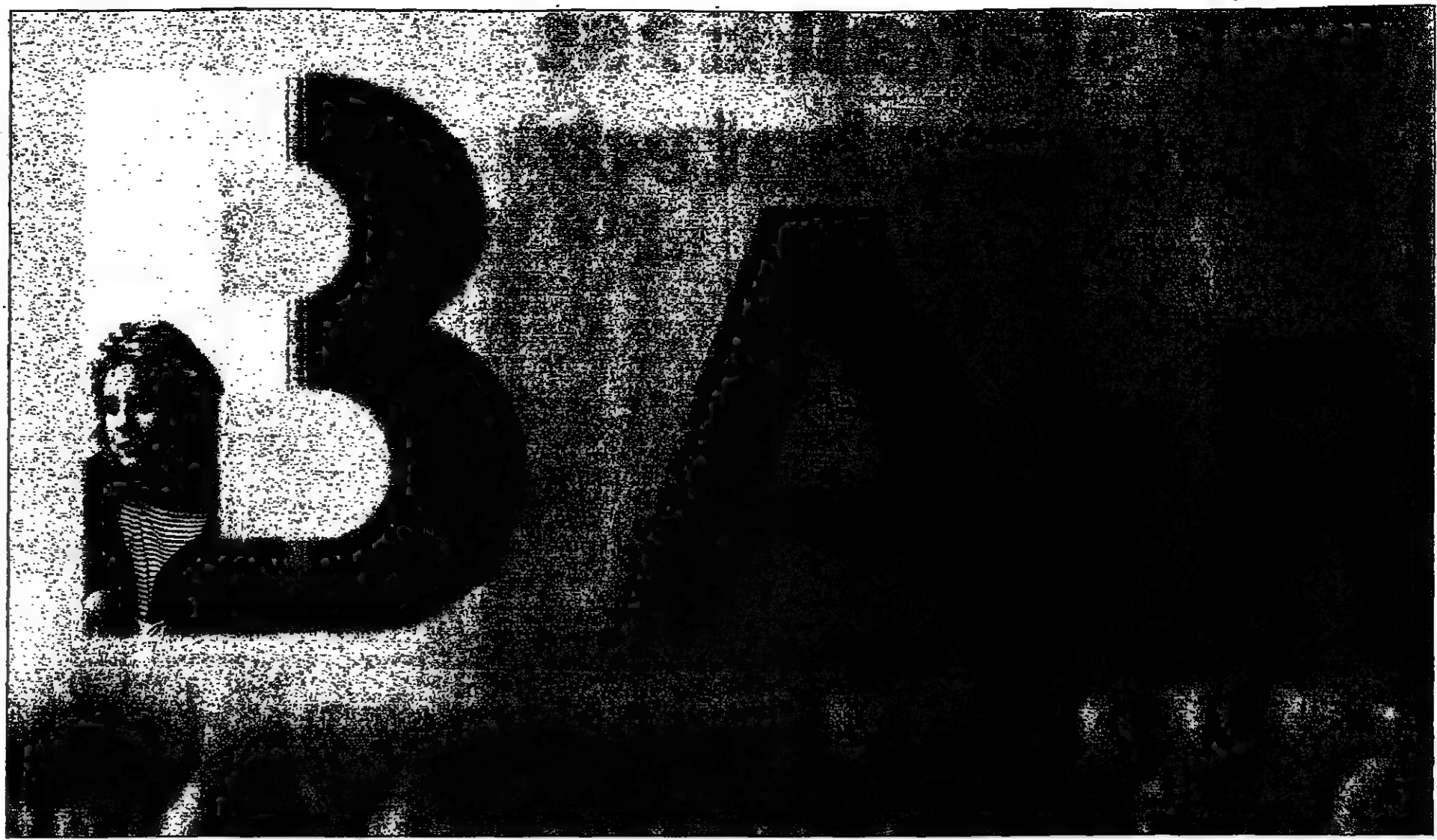
Channing and Guare have now worked together four times, three of them in the last six years, and the teamwork stirred Frank Rich in the *New York Times* recently to refer to the actress as the playwright's "muse". "I don't claim that it's sort of a giggle to me," she says. But she looks pleased to be enjoying the sort of sustained professional relationship which few performers ever find.

"It's not collaboration but co-operation," says Channing, who met Guare in 1971 when she was a "penniless and over-educated" Harvard graduate making her Broadway debut in the chorus of his musical *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The two met again 15 years later doing a Lincoln Centre revival of *The House Of Blue Leaves*, winning Tony nominations for that play and for their two partnerships since. "I'm enormously grateful that I feel a kind of shorthand with John, which is a real luxury. If he says, 'Go stand on your head somewhere', I'll say, 'Right, okay, I'll do it', and he'll say, 'What did you learn from that?'"

Channing acknowledges the peculiarity of her present situation, which finds her the lone holdover from New York adjusting to a sizeable British supporting cast and a British director, Phyllida Lloyd. (Even John Malkovich, here two years ago with the Broadway play *Burn This*, was working alongside another original member of the New York company as well as an American director.)

She admits it is rather exhausting. "I feel a great sense that I represent John's understanding of the music of the piece. It's not that we want to duplicate everything, but there is a very specific rhythm which has to do with John, not with being American. You can't translate it into another theatrical language; it is what it is."

The actress discussed her concerns with her new director. "When Phyllida called me about the part — and I'm not saying this in a manipulative way — I said to her that it would be virtually impossible for me to create another performance, so she said: 'What? I've spent two years with



Stockard Channing, through a glass darkly: "I've spent two years with this part, and I can't start doing some Grotowski approach to the thing, like playing it in a sack."

this part in my ear, and I can't start doing some Grotowski approach to the thing, like playing it in a sack."

What Channing can do is authenticate the play for London, helping to separate out Guare's artistry from the gossip surrounding the piece. (Its real-life inspiration, professional New York impostor David Hampton, sued Guare for a share of the profits, but the case was thrown out of court earlier this year.) Most important, she feels, is to project the author's evenhandedness. "John's not trying to tell you what to think, and he's not trying to laugh at people. He could have written a play about silly rich people doing silly things, but that would have been too easy; that's been done. There are lots of traps in this piece; hopefully, we won't fall into them."

Channing's work with Guare has put her near the forefront of the American theatre, where her reputation approaches that enjoyed here by, say, Judi Dench. But it was a British play — Peter Nichols's *A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg* — that turned her

fortunes around after a string of little-seen movies (*The Fortune*, *Sweet Revenge*, *The Big Bus*) and one hit (*Grease*) playing the raunchy Rizzo, a part with whom one would hardly want to be identified forever. Her performance in *Joe Egg* as the mother Sheila, at once mournful and compassionate, won her a Best Actress Tony in 1985, and the actress had a subsequent success playing Alan Ayckbourn's unbalanced suburbanite, Susan, in the off-Broadway premiere of *Woman In Mind*.

Channing refers to that succession of films as "my dark ages", as befits someone touted as Jack Nicholson and Warren Beatty's "unknown" leading lady in Mike Nichols's *The Fortune* (1975), only to watch the film go nowhere. Nor did television offer much success: her CBS series sank in 1980 after two seasons, during which, Channing says, "I realised I was getting increasingly uncomfortable, increasingly cranky, and out of touch with the fruits of my labours."

The New York-born actress says that she "came out of the theatre and ultimately went back into the theatre", citing as a turning point a summertime stint on the West Coast playing Rosalind in *As You Like It* for the late Tony Richardson. "Also, if you're female and not 25, you're not going to find that much work in film. In a way, I've got what I wanted, but it's been the long way round."

The theatre, incidentally, gives Channing her best film role to date this autumn, when she reprises Ouisa one last time in the film of *Six Degrees* currently planned by Australian director Fred Schepisi. Other actresses, of course, craved the chance to take on the role, but Guare made it a condition of his script that Channing came with it. All of which makes her sound like a performer who has reached her prime. Says Channing, quietly: "Yeah, I feel like I'm functioning on all cylinders."

● *Six Degrees of Separation* previews from Thursday at the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW1 (071-730 1745), opening June 18.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Battered but not broken

Making a television documentary on your own life must be every teenager's idea of heaven. Unless, of course, your life has been made a hell by your stepfather's sexual abuse and your mother's total withdrawal of her love. It sounds hell to watch, too; but the programme was rescued by the unexpected *joie de vivre* of the girl who made it.

"Justice Sucks", the first in a new series of *Teenage Diaries* (BBC2, Saturday), told the story of Vonnice, an attractive, bouncy and intelligent girl of 16 who has spent the last four years in care. Abandoned by her parents, Vonnice has no family except an even more damaged younger brother and a grandmother whom she had never been encouraged to seek out until the BBC appeared on the scene.

Ground down by institutional life, she became suicidal, but her spirit was sustained by a handful of decent people — her sympathetic woman solicitor, a social worker, the police cadets, her foster family. A year ago she was raped by a stranger, but her passive response (conditioned by her childhood torment) made successful prosecution difficult. Her attempts to bring a private prosecution foundered, like much else, on the indifference of her anonymous guardians, the social services.

Vonnice's response to her predicament, rather than the horrors themselves, forms the real subject of the film. She revisits all her old homes ("full of ghosts"). She writes powerful, idiomatic poetry about her mother, her brother, the justice she has been denied. She even confronts the head of social services with a two-hour

interview, in which she tells the impassive woman behind the endless legal letters how much it hurts never to have been told she was loved. She struggles to understand her own resentments and bitterness, but she cannot always master them. Her anger is righteous but self-destructive. The case of Vonnice stands for thousands of others, not all of them so articulate or brave. For them, as she says, "care" has lost its meaning. When family life goes horribly wrong, the welfare state must pick up the pieces. Vonnice's diary showed how inadequately it does so. The failings of the system will not be remedied by giving its administrators more money, but by obliging them to show more humility: above all, by making them listen to voices like Vonnice's.

DANIEL JOHNSON

ARTS BRIEF

Sad cafe

END of a jazz dream: less than 18 months after opening the glitzy new Jazz Cafe premises in Camden Town, London, impresario John Dabner has admitted defeat. With the nightclub now in receivership, though still functioning as a venue, Dabner has gone back to booking local performers for the original Jazz Cafe, a tiny restaurant in Newington Green. At Camden Town the music continues, though there is a shift away from international names towards home-grown talent.

Adman cometh

RADIO 3's new controller, Nicholas Kenyon, seems determined to drag his network into a brave new world. He has appointed Saatchi and Saatchi to sell Radio 3 to the unconvinced. With Classic FM arriving in the autumn, we may now expect a gentled advertising war between the two classical-music broadcasters. Reach for your jingles.

Last chance...

OPERA North's spring tour ends this week, and the main reason to hurry to the Sheffield Lyceum (0742 769922) is to catch a magnificent production of Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*. John Tomlinson is majestic as the tormented tsar. He is supported, in Ian Judge's boldly melodramatic staging, by outstanding choral and orchestral work under Paul Daniel's inspired conducting. Performances on Wednesday and Saturday.

Picking out the plums

This year's Royal Academy Exhibition is as much of a mixed bag as ever, but John Russell Taylor finds plenty to enjoy

As the peppery senior Academician spluttered in answer to the usual criticisms of the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, "Of course it's a ragbag. Famous for it." But if those are the usual criticisms, this year they seem less relevant than for many years past. It is not so much a question of what, exactly, is in the show, as of how the show has been put together.

Abstract art, for instance, is hardly noticeable this year. Not, as you might expect, because conservative (or now modishly post-modernist) elements have routed it, or even because there is significantly less than in previous years, but because we are invited to look at all the art on show in the same way: the first reaction is often one of pleasure at the play of colours and shapes across the canvas; only then do we begin to distinguish whether we are looking at a landscape or an abstract.

Or, for that matter, an architectural plan or project, for these too, while presenting a notable gathering in their traditional place, are also scattered abroad among the paintings and prints of other rooms. Sculpture, too, ventures to an unprecedented degree into areas which used to be left entirely to wall art. The overall result is a smooth blend, rather than the confusion which might have been.

If anyone wanted to find something to complain about, it might be that the blend is bland. Certainly there seem to be a lot of old favourites who



Sculpture at the RA: Willi Soukup's *Flower Girls*

this year appear all too ready to recycle old formulas. This is not entirely a matter of how many times a particular painter has painted slight variations on the same theme. There is nothing at all unfamiliar in the subject matter of this year's Carol Weight's or Richard Burichs, and yet both these octogenarians manage to retain a freshness of vision which means that Weight's mysteriously haunted characters fleeing unseen menaces, or Burichs's tranquil beach scenes come up as vividly as though they had never painted anything like them before. John Bellamy, however, has surely long ago got all there is to be got out of men oddly involved with fish and other symbolic appurtenances. Likewise Jeffery Camp with his embracing lovers. Anthony Green, too, must eventually

run out of material drawn from every detail of his own life and spread over canvases and papers of the most bizarre shapes. The list could be considerably extended.

The main talking point of this year's show is likely to be not any individual work, but a particular room. Gallery IX has been hung by Peter Blake, and one might almost guess that on internal evidence alone. It is actually put together like one vast Peter Blake collage. An old-fashioned "Academy hang", with a vengeance, it puts pictures frame to frame from top to bottom of the available wall. And the pictures themselves are very much to Blake's own taste. He has a weakness for the knowingly simple, or even the out-and-out primitive, which must explain the luridly coloured images of royals painted from newspaper pictures or possibly built-box tops. As against this, there is the Blake taste for minute realism, like Peter Hodson's Cotswold landscapes or Peter Campbell Warden's *War Years*.

This radically personal reshaping of usual Academy ways works very well. Some museum of Pop Art should buy the whole thing as a single installation. Otherwise selection, for purchase or merely on-the-spot delectation, is the normal matter of picking the plums out of the cake. Brilliantly memorable, for instance, is Bill Jacklin's *Audience III*, an evocation of the public at a Sing concert which leaves the subject perfectly recognisable yet pushes it inexorably towards abstract pattern-making.

There are also newcomers, complete or relative, who give pleasure, such as Shanti Panchal with his exquisitely coloured scenes of everyday Anglo-Indian life, or Sarah Spencer with her painterly miniature interiors. Even well and truly blended, individual works do still stand out. Which is finally what the Summer Exhibition is all about.

● 224th Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-436 7438) Daily 10am-6pm, until August 16. Admission 54, concessions 22.70. Sponsored by Chiswick plc.

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A TV star all East Germany hated

He was, quite simply, the most hated man in East Germany: not Erich Honecker, who had supervised the building of the Wall, nor Erich Mielke, whose Stasi secret police kept the nation in a state of permanent distrust and fear. The hatred of them has been largely retrospective, fuelled by revelations of corruption. No, the one they hated all along was Karl Eduard von Schnitzler, the most unpopular face on the nation's TV screens.

His aristocratic name could not have been less well matched to his leanings and function. Von Schnitzler was the country's chief TV propagandist for 30 years, and his weekly slot *Der Schwarze Kanal* (The Black Channel) presented the West, and the Federal Republic in particular, through the twisted prism of his perceptions, using illustrations cleverly culled from West German television overlaid with a commentary of iodine mixed with bile.

His bulky figure would appear after the news each Monday, lounging in a chair, his small eyes glimmering with malice behind thick spectacles. He spat out the words "Bundesrepublik Deutschland" with venom, developing a vocabulary which made the standard Cold War rhetoric sound like pillow talk. West Germany was rechristened "the Land of Wolves"; Western Europe "the World of Yesterday"; America "the Herald of World War Three". One could not deny his perverse style, his opening line a fluted variation on a single theme: "Poverty, unemployment, breached human rights, lies and state-sanctioned murder," he would intone mournfully. "The Federal Republic of Germany today. A cordial good evening, ladies and gentlemen." East Germans claimed that they never watched it. But watch they did, aghast and addicted at the same time.

When the mass demonstrations began in East Berlin and Leipzig in November 1989 there were as many placards calling for the removal of von Schnitzler as for Honecker's short-lived successor Egon Krenz. (He was particularly outraged by a recurring slogan exhorting "Schnitzler for the Muppet Show" and still more furious when the intellectual magazine *Die Weltbühne* remarked that his commentary on life in the West had been so crassly unbelievable as to have actually encouraged the exodus.) He remains cordially loathed, for his cynicism rather than for his ideology. Even Lothar de Maizière, the first and last freely-elected prime minister of East Germany, who otherwise preached forgiveness towards

Karl Eduard von Schnitzler, one of communism's leading propagandists, was trained by the BBC. Anne McElvoy met him

the old guard, drew the line at a *rapprochement* with him. When von Schnitzler turned up as a somewhat ill-conceived "surprise guest" on a television show with de Maizière, the quietly-spoken premier promptly rose from his studio chair, claiming that he would not appear on the same podium with him. Von Schnitzler stayed put for the whole programme despite rough treatment from his hosts, while the prime minister hung around in the wings.

We talked in his bungalow in the village of Zeuthen, south of Berlin, an area favoured by the beneficiaries of the communist regime. Deprived of his status as the regime's mouthpiece, stripped of the confidence publicly brings, von Schnitzler is simply a prolix, rather corpulent old man slouched in his armchair ready for a good grumble.

"I know the gossip. They used to say I lived in a luxury villa with a swimming pool. Now you can see for yourself. I live like any other East German citizen." The living room was small and over-filled with books and ornaments from the Eastern bloc and Arab countries. There was Western furniture and the awful giant leather suite which passes for good décor in both parts of Germany.

His Hungarian wife, Maria Rafael, a newsreader on Budapest television in the 1950s and defender of the Soviet invasion of 1956, snapped vindictive interjections now and then. "Now Maria, let us be charitable," he said as she suggested that Helmut Kohl had earned the death penalty for betraying the East German people. When we reached the topic of the 200 deaths on the old border, she enquired icily if I knew how many people the West Germans shot each year on the Dutch border "for smuggling butter".

There is the inevitable *dacha* in the country too, but I doubt that it is any more extravagant than the house. Rather like the case of Nicu Ceausescu, the Romanian dictator's son, the rumours are less a reflection of the facts of his life than a measure of

public contempt. Wild stories circulated that he had been a Nazi and a womanizer with a taste for orgies; that he owned a house in the West and had his shopping done for him in West Berlin by a chauffeur driving a black Mercedes; that his wife had been caught stealing tights from the West Berlin luxury store Kaufhaus des Westens (this was true and he proceeded to base a broadcast on it, claiming that she had done it to draw attention to the evils of imperialism).

For the outsider, his broadcasts were the best comedy on German TV. But for East Germans, they were distressing, shameful reminders of what their country was built upon. "I cannot laugh," said one acquaintance quietly, after a particularly baroque commentary. "Every week they beam Goebbels into our living-rooms."

Von Schnitzler was the first victim of Egon Krenz's brief attempt to introduce cosmetic reforms. After almost three decades of berating Western imperialism and the "Nazi heirs of the Federal Republic", he arrived for his broadcast with his usual scripted tirade and was promptly told to discard it and bid a five-minute farewell. This he did with dignity, although it was impossible to miss the trembling of the hand and the brittle edge to the usually sovereign voice. The rest was vintage von Schnitzler: "I have been criticised for adhering to a Cold War picture of the world. I have only ever had one criterion for friendship or enmity and it is this: for or against humanity, for its freedoms, its rights, its life, or against it." He finished, as ever, with a veiled threat and a flourish: "Many will cheer at my departure. But I shall not give up. I shall serve socialism in other ways." As his face faded from the screen for the last time, corks popped in living-rooms across the republic. It was not only the end of a broadcasting era, it was the symbolic switching-off of East Germany's central propaganda machine.

Karl Eduard Richard Arthur Gerhard von Schnitzler was born in 1918 into a leading Rhineland family, although his parents had moved to Berlin by the time he was born. He made an early break with family tradition, joining the *Sozialistische Arbeiterjugend* where his heritage earned him the unflattering nickname "Blue-Arse". Later, when he arrived in the Soviet zone, he asked Walter Ulbricht whether he could drop his tell-tale aristocratic "von". "Don't be stupid," the proletarian Ulbricht said, "people should know what sort of people are coming over on our side."

He built a career out of his hatred of his unprepossessing relations. The signature of his Uncle Georg, the sales director of the chemical concern IG

Farben, can be seen on deliveries of Zyklon B, the gas used in the Nazi extermination chambers. The family banking house I. H. Stein was one of Hitler's major financiers.

Von Schnitzler's war is a subject of debate, with large chapters apparently unaccounted for. He was captured by the Canadians in Normandy in 1944 and according to him, "I was taken to Britain, to Kempton Park racecourse, which was being used as an interrogation camp for German prisoners of war. The interrogator was clearly well prepared for me. His first question was: 'Who is Georg von Schnitzler?'"

"The sales director of IG Farben, supporter of Hitler and my cousin," I said.

"Who is Kurt von Schroder?"

"Banker in Cologne, financier of Hitler. Also my cousin."

"Who is Herbert von Dirksen?"

"Cousin and Hitler's ambassador in Tokyo, Moscow and London."

"Who is Diego von Bergen?"

"A cousin and ambassador to the Vatican."

"Hm," he said. "And don't tell us, you're an anti-fascist now, right?"

"No," I said. "I was against Hitler when your industrialists granted him loans, when your government accepted the remilitarization of the Ruhr without resistance, when you sacrificed Czechoslovakia to Hitler so that he would continue to march east and not attack you."

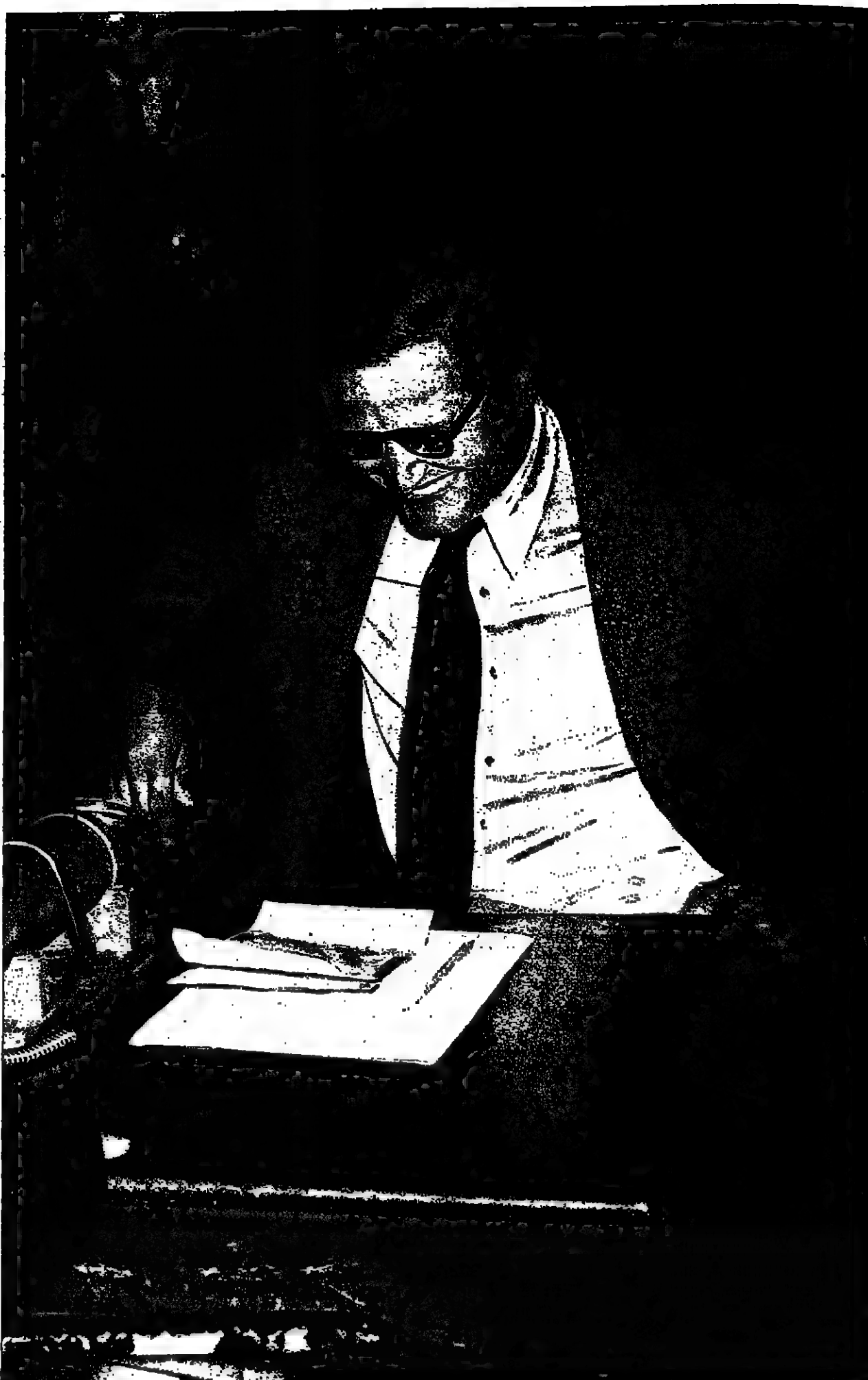
Here, at least, von Schnitzler's account tallies with British evidence. He was sent to a meeting in Brondesbury attended by leading German anti-fascists and the Labour MP and later Foreign Secretary Patrick Gordon Walker. The plan to create a BBC radio programme in which German prisoners-of-war addressed audiences at home was hatched under the auspices of Hugh Carleton Greene, the brother of Graham and later the director-general of the BBC, and Lindsey Fraser, the head of the German Service.

It is one of the weirder ironies of East German history that the country's leading propagandist learned his craft in Bush House.

"It was the only journalistic training I received but the best, I believe: thorough, objective and professional," he said. "I have the BBC to thank for my training." Carleton Greene was impressed by von Schnitzler's sharp microphone style and sent him as political commentator to the British Sector's North-West German Radio (NWDR) in Hamburg and in 1946 as acting director-general and the head of political coverage at the NWDR.

He was dismissed when his communist sympathies began to penetrate his reports too blatantly, and promptly disappeared, only to turn up shortly afterwards broadcasting on the *Berliner Rundfunk*, the mouthpiece of the Soviet administration, then based in the western sector of the city. The suspicion grew that von Schnitzler had been enticed by the Russians by a mixture of bribery and blackmail.

He covered the Nuremberg trials for Soviet sector radio — "half of my family was in the dock" — and expanded into film and TV after the radio station, besieged by British



Loathed: former East German broadcaster Karl Eduard von Schnitzler attacked the West in a weekly programme

troops, moved into the Eastern sector in 1952. He quickly gained currency as Ulbricht's chief propagandist. When in 1960 he had the idea of a weekly programme attacking the western media it was warmly welcomed, and *The Black Channel* was born.

Where East German politicians and functionaries gradually shied away from the harsher facts of the division of Germany, mumbling instead about peaceful coexistence, von Schnitzler never stopped battering. As an enemy of *détente*, he suffered during political thaws, being sacked as the director of East German radio in 1958, and removed from his job as political director of a television discussion show in 1967. He even disappeared for several weeks from the screen after the military scaling-down in 1988. But he was prepared to do dirty work and his programme was frequently used to send coded messages and threats to Western security services.

If his dirty work for the regime was contemptible, his talent for abuse was beyond doubt. Here he is, for instance, commenting on West German

news reporting with deadpan accuracy: "A microphone rammed into the car window, the meaningless sentence of a minister. An equally meaningless shot of the rear view of another minister arriving. Journalism, ladies and gentlemen!"

But if his system had all been so beneficial, why had it collapsed? "I admit we should have presented the benefits of our system more clearly to the public," he said. "Perhaps a more liberal policy on travel would have helped, but of course, the Wall was necessary; no more than necessary, it preserved peace, protected us from attack."

At last I began to understand why East Germans could not laugh at him. "I want you to know one thing before you leave me," he said. "I never lied. Not once. Tell people that. I was the one who

told them the truth. Our people lived in better social conditions than they live in now"

'I was the one who told them the truth. Our people lived in better social conditions than they live in now'

same freedom I had under the Communist Party. Your censor is more powerful than ours ever was. "I am sorry that you have still not grasped the fundamental fact," he said. "Everything that the socialists did

here was for the good of the people, for humanity. What capitalists do is always motivated by profit, by the desire to force working people to accept the continuation of their power. That is why we are more moral than you will ever be."

He rose and remarked that it was growing late. The interview was over. "Auf Wiedersehen, junge Frau," he said. "A safe journey home." "Ah, von Schnitzler," said an old communist acquaintance. "A sad man. He never really escaped his class, his past; you can't. In the beginning, he was a figure of fun for us. The Red Baron Mark Two, we used to call him. An aristocrat who wanted to be a revolutionary, who exaggerated everything because he believed in nothing. In the end he was just despised. You know, even in the Party." In 1990, he was stripped of his membership of the reformed Communist Party of Democratic Socialism.

● Extracted from *The Saddled Cow: East Germany's Life and Legacy* by Anne McElvoy published today by Faber and Faber (£14.99)

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IT matters?



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TES

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At Rio's most glamorous hotel, a man from a small town in Lancashire will be waiting to welcome Mr Major

Sun, surf and Accrington

Somehow the idea of John Major in his spectacles at the Copacabana Palace Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, is the most incongruity yet in the boy from Brixton. There are no Westabix or the breakfast table of South America's most celebrated stopping place. It is papaya, with its hint of rottenness, that Mr Major will be offered after he arrives in Rio on Thursday to meet 150 other world leaders at the Earth summit, and an abundance of other strange and sensuous fruits. Guavas, persimmons, custard apples.

Whatever it is in the British character that Mr Major embodies, from sensible underpants to crosswords, the Copacabana Palace Hotel embodies the opposite. A monument of art deco elegance overlooking the Atlantic rollers of Copacabana beach, for more than 60 years it has represented Hollywood's idea of South American glamour, aristocratic style infused with hot Latin temperament.

Since Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers danced around a studio version of it in *Flying Down to Rio* in 1932, everyone has stayed there: Noel Coward and Lily Pons, Stefan Zweig and Thomas Mann, Errol Flynn and Orson Welles, Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand, the Prince and Princess of Wales. Their photographs litter the pages of the *Livro de Ouro*,

the hotel's venerable golden book which the most celebrated of its visitors are asked to sign.

The real world has been catching up with it lately. The deepening poverty of much of Brazil has spread to Copacabana, which up to 15 years ago was Rio's showcase district; it is increasingly tatty and dingy, and its rich residents have moved out to other exclusive beach fronts. The Copacabana Palace could well have followed, presenting the uncomfortable spectacle of a great hotel's decline.

Until three years ago, the hotel was losing money, its paint was peeling and the family that owned it was unable to afford investment. In 1989, James Sherwood, the American head of the British company Sea Containers, bought it and vowed to restore its glory. Mr Sherwood is a man with an



Copacabana in waiting: the Palace Hotel in Rio

eye for an image, and it was of course an image — Fred and Ginger, hot Latin nights — for which he paid \$25 million (£13.8 million). He is the man who revived the Orient Express, seeking to recapture the elegance of a lost era of European rail travel.

One thing the hotel is not is a recreated fantasy like the Orient

Express: it is an organic part of Rio of which its people are fiercely proud. It determinedly keeps the character of the social centre of Brazil, long after the capital has departed to Brasília.

Philip Carruthers, the general manager, is an Englishman, and from the name and the place one might expect a Hollywood Englishman with a public school accent. He comes from Accrington, Not Accrington, Lancashire? Home of Accrington Stanley, that plucky little football team who went out

of existence in 1959? "Nineteen sixty-one," Mr Carruthers corrected. "I had the pleasure of supporting Stanley for four great seasons, 1953-1957, when they were successively second, third, third and second in the Third Division (North). They just missed promotion."

"Then I suppose you know

Oswaldtwistle?" I said. "Many's the time I've walked over the moors to Oswaldtwistle as a lad," Mr Carruthers sighed, remembering.

"I bet not many people in Brazil talk to you about Oswaldtwistle." "Not many people in Brazil," Mr Carruthers said, "talk to me about Accrington."

He is the son of an accountant who emigrated; he landed in Rio at the age of 14, completing his education in the American School, and his vowels are an engaging mixture of English, American and Lancashire. He feels more Brazilian than English now, though, and honoured to be overseeing the restoration of a hotel that he sees as a national monument.

"We have 14 heads of state staying here simultaneously for the Earth summit," he said.

Mr Major has the presidential suite, the hotel's finest: he has the choice of two king-sized double beds in rooms which open onto a breathtaking 60ft-long balcony looking straight down onto the white sand and the breaking surf.

The boy from Brixton should not worry if all that exotic fruit, tropical flowers and warm brown flesh gets a bit too much for him on Thursday night. There's a boy from Accrington in the manager's office downstairs.

MICHAEL MCCARTHY

Footsore and fancy-free

In the first of two pieces on walking in France, Robin Neillands explains how the country became hikers' heaven

The tide was well out when we left the beach at the Bec d'Audaine and set out across the sands for Mont St Michel. The abbey church at Mont St Michel is a mecca for tens of thousands of tourists every year, but most arrive by car across the causeway from Pontorson. The two-hour walk across the empty Baie de Mont St Michel is a far better way to get there.

France is the ideal country for the walker. To begin with, it is twice the size of the United Kingdom but contains about the same number of people. This means that France has large areas of empty countryside, which would be a blessing even without the added advantages of a varied terrain and a generally pleasant climate. Throw in the good food and low prices for accommodation anywhere off the beaten track, and a walk in France becomes one of life's joys.

British walkers in France will soon notice a friendly attitude towards them: even the farmers are friendly. In nearly 20 years of walking in France I have never met the slightest hostility from a French farmer, even when I have been lost and well off the proper footpath. In Britain I meet hostility almost every weekend. The only real snag in France is the dogs, which are best avoided. The wise walker in France will carry a stick. It is not necessary to use it; simply pointing it at the dog is enough.

France has a 'country code' covering all the usual points on shutting gates and removing litter, and there are special regulations which restrict walking (and camping) in the National or Regional Parks. It is also common to find land marked off for shooting — *chasse privée* — or certain tracks gated to stop cattle straying, or on these the walker is authorised, or, as the French put it, *toléré*.

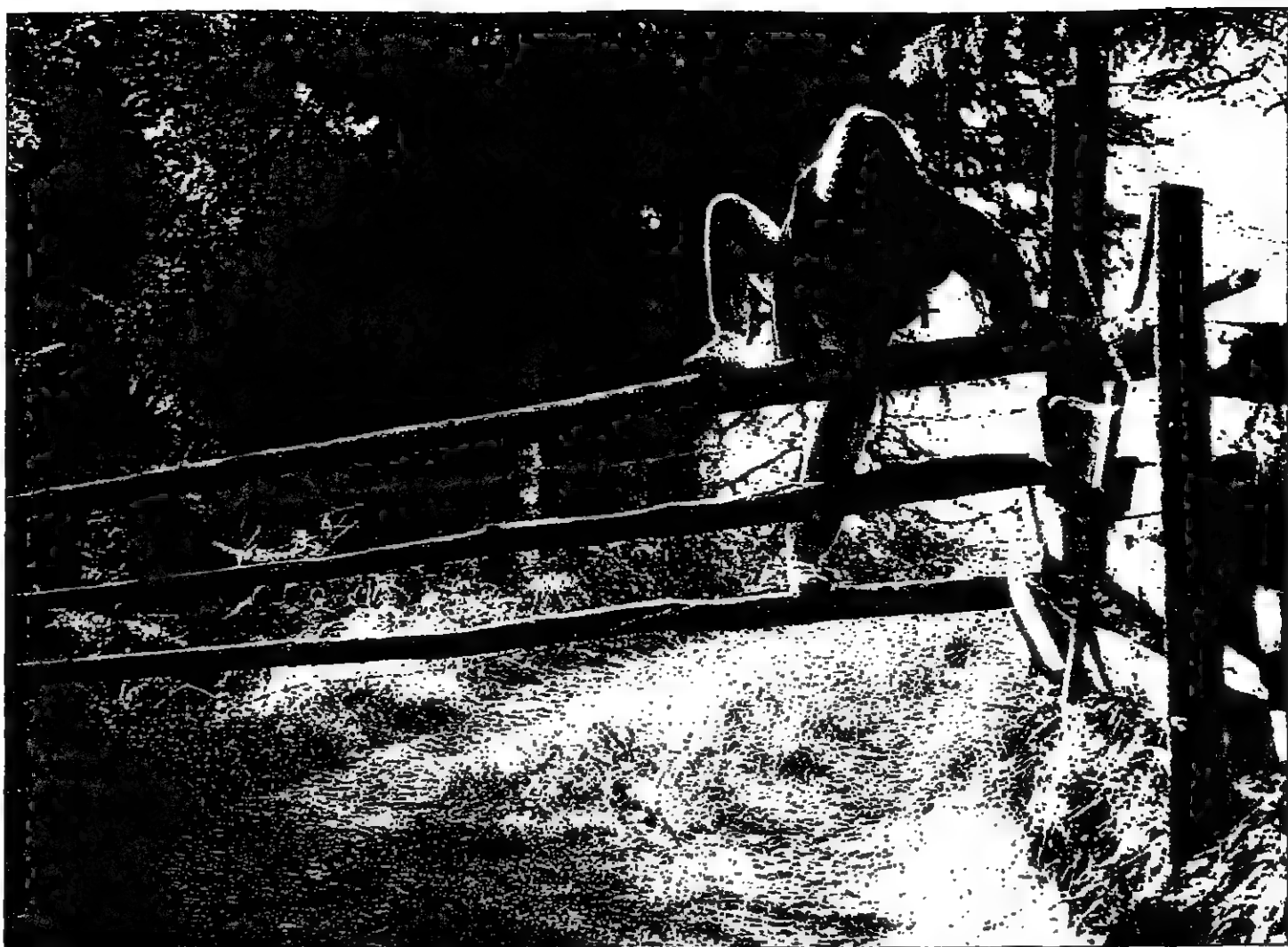
Over the past 50 years, since the setting up of the marvellously named *Fédération Française de Randonnée Pédestre* (FFRP) and the *Comité National des Sentiers de Grande Randonnée* (CNSGR) in 1943, walking in France has become a very well-organised activity. The FFRP has become involved

in the clearing and waymarking of local and regional footpaths or *sentiers* while the CNSGR has been largely concerned with developing the *Grande Randonnée*, a nationwide network of waymarked long-distance footpaths that now reach into every corner of France.

To these basic aids can be added the fact that French footpaths are now marked on most French maps and covered in detail in a comprehensive series of topographic guides. Topo-guides, published by the FFRP-CNSGR, are a model of what footpath guides should be with details of accommodation, access points and places of interest en route as well as timings for each stage, clear instructions on the route to follow and 1:50,000 scale maps. Many of these CNSGR Topo-guides have now been translated into English and are available at UK bookshops (see box, below). Finding somewhere to stay is rarely a problem for the walker in France, though wise walkers will always book ahead. There is good walking in France for every kind of walker.

This being so it is more than curious that the rarest sight on a French footpath is a French walker. Many companies now offer walking holidays in France (see box), with short daily stages and a van to carry the luggage, and those who speak not a word of French would find such a holiday a good introduction. Many good walks begin right beside a ferry port.

This is certainly the case with the GR36, one of the longer footpaths of the *Grande Randonnée*. This begins by the Brittany Ferry terminal at Ouistreham, near Caen, in Normandy and leads south to the Pyrenees, but sensible walkers need not go that far. A day's walk of about 30km (19 miles) to the south, along the towpath of the Caen Canal, past Pegasus Bridge and the city of Caen, lies the tumbled countryside of the *Suisse Normande*. The *Suisse Normande* is a tightly packed area of forested hills, cut and grooved by the river Orne. Along the river are a number of villages and pleasant towns each equipped with small hotels, each the perfect centre for day walks into



Clambering rambler: French pathways are well marked and mapped but offer few encounters with the French themselves

the surrounding countryside. The first stop is at the *gynécée d'initiative* (tourist office) to collect a copy of their map and maybe a guide to the local footpaths.

From Cléry there are good walks in all directions, to the cliff heights above the Orne or along the banks of the river. From Thury-Harcourt, walkers can explore the rolling countryside around the town on a regional footpath, the *'sentier de la Suisse Normande'*.

One long weekend walk which employs all the elements necessary for walking anywhere in France is the 100km (62 mile) walk along a section of the GR39 north from Rennes, the capital of Brittany, to Mont St Michel on the coast. This walk is well described in the McCarty Topo-guide, *Walking through Brittany*, which gives all the details necessary for planning.

My weekend on the GR39 began with the night ferry from

Portsmouth to St Malo, arriving at 8am. A train ride to Rennes and by noon I was walking north along the towpath of the Canal d'Ille-et-Rance and by one o'clock I was hunching in a hotel at St Grégoire. That night was spent in the *gîte* on a farm at La Lande Ragot, 16 miles from my starting point, where the dinner included the farmer's *cider bouché*. Next day I pushed on across dog-infested farming country to Antrain, and on the third day,

with Mont St Michel in sight, I arrived in Pontorson.

On the last day I followed the course of the River Couesnon to the sea and then crossed the causeway to reach Mont St Michel in time for lunch at Mère Poulard's where my tan and boots were much admired. That done, I took a taxi back to St Malo for the ferry home.

TOMORROW
Challenge walking

FINDING YOUR WAY ON THE FOOTPATHS OF FRANCE

- Information on walking in the various regions of France can be obtained from the French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL. Walking in France is covered in 'The Active Traveller in France', which is available free to callers at the tourist office or by post, price £1 in stamps.
- Companies offering walking holidays in France include Rambles Holidays (0707 331133); Waymark Holidays (0753 516477); Inntavel (0439 71111); Walker's France (0734 402153); Bob Sloan's Walking Holidays (0732 824300); Alternative Travel (0865 310399). A full list can be found in 'The Active Traveller in France' or in 'Traveller in France Reference Guide 1992', both published by the French Government Tourist Office, free to callers or for £1 by post.
- The best guides are in the McCarty Footpaths of Europe series of

Topo-guides published in English in association with the *Fédération Française de Randonnée Pédestre*. Available by mail order only from McCarty, 15 Highbury Place, London N5 1QP (071-354 1616). A comprehensive guide to the whole subject is *Walking in France* by Rob Hunter and David Wickers (Oxford Illustrated Press £14.95) is a well illustrated guide to 20 superb walks in France. The best walking maps are those published in various scales by the IGN (French equivalent of the Ordnance Survey). The IGN map No 903, *Sentiers de Grande Randonnée* (£3.95), gives a complete coverage of the long-distance footpath network. Small-scale maps and guide books are cheaper in France. The best assortment in Britain is at Stanfords, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP (071-836 1321).

A kiss is not just a kiss



ESSENTIAL FRENCH:
L'AMOUR

The French are acknowledged virtuosos of the *liaison dangereuse*. But perhaps they are only better at talking about love. I recently asked a French woman whether the amorous reputation of French men was justified. 'Les Latins lovers?' she reflected. 'Pour la drague, oui; pour tout le reste, non.' ('For picking you up, yes; for everything else, no.')

I asked how she rated the English. 'Nuls,' she replied, 'même pour la drague.' ('Zero — even for picking you up.') Ironically, the verb *draguer* was derived from the English 'drag' and originally applied to net fishing, dredging. When one male friend observed 'Nous sommes tous des dragueurs', he wasn't suggesting that all French men were 'dredgers', although this wouldn't have been so far from the truth. I once left my girlfriend for five minutes on a French street corner standing next to a policeman. When I got back she had been approached three times, once by the policeman. As an innocent 14-year-old I said 'Je vous baise' to a friend's older sister under the impression I was offering her a kiss on the cheek. This is the sense of the verb *baiser* in Raciné, so I was only three centuries out of date — it now means 'bunking'. Had I used the noun, and said, 'Donnez-moi un petit baiser', relations with her husband would have been less strained.

Petite amie(e) is still the polite term for boy (girl) friend; *amant* is rather more illicit. *Amante(e)*, a fusion of *ami* and *amant*, is the coming word to describe a partner 'ou l'affaire est strictement éphémère and masochiste' ('where the relationship is strictly temporary and masochistic').

Other indispensable terms: *Zesteur quelqu'un* — to ogle or give someone the eye (derived from the pronunciation of *les yeux*, eyes). This is now seen as genteel and apt to be replaced by *relancer quelqu'un* — to give someone the once-over. *Elle m'a posé un lapin* — she stood me up (literally, she laid a rabbit on me). *Phalloscurie*, *phallo* for short — male chauvinist pig, sexist.

ANDY MARTIN

HALF-PRICE FRANCE: cut the cost of your holiday by half this summer with these exclusive offers on top-class hotels and cross-Channel travel

Bargain rates at top hotels

DISCOVER the beauty of France in style and comfort this summer and enjoy up to 50 per cent off the room rates at 5- and 4-star hotels courtesy of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Our exclusive Passport to France offer is available at 100 participating Mercure and Altea hotels for accommodation between June 20 to September 7, ranging from traditional family hotels to resort hotels, from modern city hotels to country hideaways.

There is no limit to the number of hotels you can choose or to how long you can stay at a particular hotel. The offer is available for any days of the week, although on some days the discount available will be 25 per cent.

Children are welcome. Many hotels participating in this offer have three- or four-bed family rooms where up to two children under 16 sharing with their parents can not only stay free of charge but can also eat breakfast free when their parents choose to take a splendid buffet-style breakfast which, at about FF150 per person, is excellent value.

At a Mercure and Altea hotel in France you could pay as little as FF200 (about £20) per night for a family of four. The amount of discount available on this offer will vary between 50 per cent and 25 per cent depending on where and when you choose to stay.



Taste of France: the traditional grape harvest at Médou

hotel/Mercure ALTEA

HOW TO BOOK

TO TAKE advantage of this offer, collect ten differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* between May 31 and June 13. One is on this page today. Attach your tokens to the application form which appeared in *The Times* on June 2, which will be repeated on June 10 and 13. A telephone number will be in *The Times* on June 10 for queries on the specific room rate tariff, and the discount for your chosen hotel(s) and dates.

Details of the prices that apply to your chosen dates and hotels will be advised to you on confirmation of booking. A full list of participating hotels and prices was published in *The Times* last Tuesday and will be repeated on Saturday.

Take your family by SeaCat from £130

TODAY *The Times* launches the second of its great Passport to France summer offers by inviting readers to take advantage of half-price travel to France with Hoverspeed SeaCat.

Why not use this special offer to embark on a gourmet tour of northern France or head further afield to the wine-growing areas or the beautiful beaches?

The town of Boulogne itself, with a population of 50,000, is well worth a second glance. It is France's largest fishing port and a popular resort.

For as little as £146 you can take a car with four adult passengers to Boulogne saving 50 per cent on the normal standard return fare. Two adults and two children can cross the Channel by Hoverspeed's SeaCat for just £130.

SeaCat is the largest catamaran ever built and the first to carry cars. It is setting the pace in cross-Channel travel with a journey time of 60 minutes on Hoverspeed's new Folkestone-Boulogne route.

The craft is not only unique in terms of concept, design and capacity but provides impressive developments in customer service. Features of SeaCat include panoramic views from the central and side lounge cabin areas. Each passenger has an aircraft-style seat. There is a separate lounge bar at the stern of the craft and an outside deck area. Forward there is an observation deck with views through to the bridge. Duty-free shops, mother-and-baby room and Vodafone facilities are also on-board features.

Hoverspeed's SeaCat service from Folkestone to Boulogne started in April. The company believes its Folkestone route to France will be popular with cross-Channel motorists, who will prefer the port's sole-operator benefits compared with other ports.

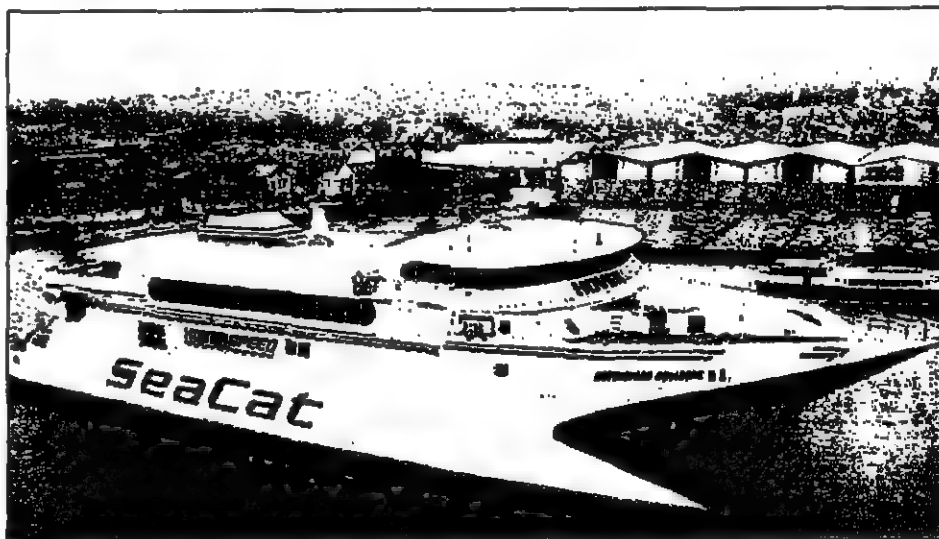
The new craft, Hoverspeed Boulogne, has increased the

Folkestone to Boulogne in an hour in airline-style comfort

SeaCat Channel fleet to three. Up to six daily sailings each way will be operated on the new route.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- To qualify for this offer all bookings should be made using the form printed in *The Times* and by following the booking instructions.
- Under the terms of this offer you are entitled to half the brochure price on a standard return fare for travel until September 30, 1992.
- The offer excludes outbound and return travel on Fridays and Saturdays from July 10 until September 5.
- Booking forms must be accompanied by payment in full and must be received at Hoverspeed by June 30, 1992. You must enclose three Passport to France tokens from *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*.
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Maybrook House, Queens Gardens, Dover, Kent CT17 9UQ

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To book, simply phone Hoverspeed on 0304-212097 for a brochure, fare information and a reservation. You will be quoted a booking reference number. Enter this number on the booking form which is published on the left with the terms and conditions of the offer. Using this offer a car with two adults will cost £122 return on certain sailings. Foot passengers are £22 return and each child with a foot passenger £11 return. Full details of fares and sailings are in the Hoverspeed and SeaCat Blue Riband Ferry Guide.



Higher education needs more funds for expansion. **Matthew d'Ancona** looks at grants and the graduate tax option

Malei Street, London WC1E 7HU,
England, UK.

Court of Appeal

Law Report June 8 1992

Court of Appeal

Duty of government scientists

Race complaint time-barred

Regina v Ward

Before Lord Justice Giddens, Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Steyn
[Judgment June 4]

It was the clear duty of government forensic scientists to assist in a neutral and impartial way in criminal investigations. The surest way of preventing the misuse of scientific evidence was by ensuring that there was a proper understanding of the nature and scope of the prosecution duty of disclosure, which existed irrespective of any request by the defence.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) so held in allowing an appeal, referred by the Home Secretary under section 17(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, by Judith Theresa Ward against her conviction in November 1974 at Wakefield Crown Court (Mr Justice Waller and a jury) of three counts of causing an explosion likely to endanger life or property, for which she was sentenced to a total of 30 years imprisonment and 12 counts of murder, for which she was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC and Mr Nicholas Blake for the appellant; Mr Timothy Langdale, QC and Mr William Boyce for the Crown.

THEIR LORDSHIPS, reading the judgment of the court in turn, said that they proposed to limit their observations to the issues which were raised by the appeal, and to leave to the House of Lords the question of the miscarriage of justice which had taken place in two matters of critical importance.

First, the cause of the injustice done to Miss Ward on the scientific side of the case stemmed from the fact that three senior forensic scientists at the Royal Research and Development Establishment at Wootton Bassett regarded their task as being to help the police. They became partisan.

It was their clear duty to act in the cause of justice. That duty should be spelled out to all engaged or to be engaged in forensic services in the clearest terms.

Second, the surest way of preventing the misuse of scientific evidence was by ensuring that there was a proper understanding of the nature and scope of the prosecution duty of disclosure. In their Lordships' view there had been an imperfect understanding of the position in 1974.

Mr Langdale suggested that the problem was solved by the Crown Court (Advance Notice of Expert Evidence) Rules (SI 1987 No 716 (L. 2)). They enabled the legal representative of a defendant in a crown court criminal case to require the prosecution by notice in writing to provide in respect of scientific evidence a copy of, or an opportunity to inspect "the record" of the observation, test, calculation or other procedure on which such finding or opinion is based.

Those new rules were helpful but it was a misconception to regard them as exhaustive: they did not in any way supplant or detract from the prosecution's general duty of disclosure in respect of scientific evidence. What the rules did not say in terms was that if an expert witness had carried out experi-

ments or tests which tended to disprove or cast doubt upon the opinion he was expressing, or if such experiments or tests had been carried out in his laboratory and were known to him, the party calling him must also disclose the record of such experiments or tests.

The rules did not state that in terms because they could only be read as requiring the record of all relevant experiments and tests to be disclosed. It was the expert witness's clear obligation to bring the records of such experiments and tests to the attention of the solicitor who was instructing him so that it might be disclosed to the other party. That duty existed irrespective of any request by the defence.

It was also not limited to documentation on which the opinion or findings of an expert was based. It extended to anything which might arguably assist the defence. It was therefore wider in scope than the rules.

Moreover, it was a positive duty, which in the context of scientific evidence obliged the prosecution to make full and proper enquiries from forensic scientists in order to ascertain whether there was discoverable material.

Given the undoubted inequality as between prosecution and defence in access to forensic scientists, it was of paramount importance that the common-law duty of disclosure should be appreciated by those who practised and defended in criminal cases. If difficulties arose in a particular case, the court had to be the final judge.

It was true that public interest immunity provided an exception to the general duty of disclosure.

Their Lordships were persuaded by Mr Mansfield's argument that if in a criminal case the prosecution wished to claim public interest immunity for documents helpful to the defence, the prosecution was in law obliged to give notice to the defence of the asserted right to withhold the documents so that, if necessary, the court could be asked to rule on the legitimacy of the prosecution's asserted claim.

He contended that if it would be incompatible with a defendant's absolute right to a fair trial to allow the prosecution, who occupied an adversarial position in criminal proceedings, to be judge in their own cause on the asserted claim to immunity.

It was right that when the prosecution acted as judge in their own cause on the issue of public interest immunity in this case they committed a significant number of errors which affected the fairness of the proceedings.

Policy considerations, therefore, powerfully reinforced the view that it would be wrong to allow the prosecution to withhold material documents without giving any notice of that fact to the defence.

If, in a wholly exceptional case, the prosecution were not prepared to have the issue of public interest immunity determined by a court, the result must inevitably be that the prosecution would have to be abandoned.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co. St Pancras CPS, Headquarters.

Sougrin v Haringey Health Authority

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Balcombe and Sir John Megaw
[Judgment June 4]

Where a black staff nurse complained that she had been discriminated against when her employers regarded her at a lower grade with consequent lesser pay than her white comparator, but had not asserted that they had acted in pursuance of a discriminatory policy, the act of which she complained was, for the purposes of section 6(7) of the Race Relations Act 1976, once-for-all and did not continue throughout her employment.

Accordingly her complaint, which had not been presented to an industrial tribunal within three months of the alleged discriminatory act, was time-barred under section 6(1).

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing Mrs Merle Sougrin's appeal from the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Woodhouse, Miss J. W. Colson and Ms P. Smith) [1991] ICR 791 which upheld the industrial tribunal's decision that her complaint of unlawful racial discrimination against Haringey Health Authority was time-barred.

Mrs Sougrin had been regarded to an E grade whereas her comparator had been regarded to an F grade, the salary difference being approximately £2,000 a year. Section 6(1) of the 1976 Act provides: "(1) An industrial tribunal shall not consider a complaint... unless it is presented to the tribunal before the end of the period of three months beginning when the act complained of was done..."

"(7) For the purposes of this section - (a) when the inclusion of any term in a contract renders the making of the contract an unlawful act, that act shall be treated as extending throughout the duration of the contract; and (b) any act extending over a period shall be treated as done at the end of that period; and (c) a deliberate omission shall be treated as done when the person in question decided upon it..."

Mr Robin Allen for Mrs Sougrin; Mr Martin Griffiths for the health authority.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that in order to see what was "the act" complained of within the meaning of section 6(1) it was necessary to look at the originating application. Since they were frequently prepared by an applicant acting without the benefit of professional advice the industrial tribunal's approach to the application in a technical manner but should look at it to see what was the substance of the

complaint. Looked at in that way the present complaint was that while a white nurse was graded F, Mrs Sougrin was graded E and that the employers finally discriminated against her when on November 13, 1989 they rejected her appeal against her grade.

His Lordship referred to *Amies v Inner London Education Authority* [1977] ICR 308 which concerned a complaint of sex discrimination under section 7(6)(b), worded in identical terms to section 6(7)(b), where a male art teacher had been appointed departmental head in preference to a female teacher who continued to be paid at a lower rate than if she had been appointed.

His Lordship set out the passage in the judgment of the Employment Appeal Tribunal given by Mr Justice Bristow [at p 311] where a clear distinction had been drawn between a continuing act and the continuing consequences of a non-continuing act. The discriminatory act, the appointment, was a once-for-all act, the loss of pay had been its consequence.

If the employers had operated a policy that only men were eligible for such appointments there would have been continuing discrimination for so long as that rule was in operation.

In his Lordship's judgment, the analogy between *Amies* and the present case was close. There had been no rule that a woman could not be promoted to head of department, nor that a black nurse could not be promoted to grade F. It was the refusal to upgrade Mrs

Sougrin and the upgrading of her comparator which was the subject of her complaint.

His Lordship referred to *Caldwell v Jones* [1989] ICR 157 which illustrated a continuing discriminatory act where employers operating a mortgage subsidy scheme made available to male employees had refused the female complainant's application for a subsidy. The industrial tribunal had held that it had no jurisdiction to entertain the complaint because it had not been made within three months of the discriminatory act.

His Lordship set out the passage of the judgment of the Employment Appeal Tribunal given by Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson allowing the complainant's appeal to the effect that so long as the scheme was in operation and the complainant's employment continued there was continuing discrimination.

His Lordship referred to *Barclays Bank plc v Kapur* [1991] 2 AC 355 in which the House of Lords had approved both *Amies* and *Caldwell* and where the bank had refused to take into account for the purposes of computing pension rights the previous service of employees of Asian origin who had been employed in banks in East African countries.

The terms of the employees' contracts of employment had made it clear that the bank's refusal applied specifically to Asian employees, whereas employees of European origin with similar bank service in Africa had been credited

with that service in computing their pension entitlement. The House of Lords had regarded the proper classification of the pension provisions as a continuing act lasting throughout the period of employment and governed by section 6(7)(b).

His Lordship, setting out passages of Lord Griffiths' speech in *Kapur* at pp 367 and 369 said that there was no suggestion that Mrs Sougrin's contract included a discriminatory term.

Mr Allen had relied heavily on *Kapur* in support of Mrs Sougrin's claim that she was being subjected to a continuing act of discrimination in that she was being paid less at grade E than her comparator at grade F.

In his Lordship's judgment, careful analysis of Lord Griffiths' speech showed that the submission was not well founded. Lord Griffiths (at p 369) was clearly referring to the case of an employer who had a policy of paying coloured employees less than their white counterparts.

In the present case the claimant made was that the applicant was graded E while the comparator was graded F. That was a one-off act. The continuing consequence of that act was that the applicant was paid less than the comparator.

He would dismiss the appeal.

Sir John Megaw agreed and the Master of the Rolls delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: O. H. Parsons & Partners, Beauchamp Stanleys.

Overseas company established in UK

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Mehta
Before Mr Justice Schiemann
[Judgment June 2]

A company incorporated abroad but registered as an overseas company with a place of business in the United Kingdom was a company "established in the United Kingdom" for the purposes of the British Nationality Act 1981.

Mr Justice Schiemann so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an application by way of judicial review by Mr Sayen Mehta of the refusal by the Home Office on May 9, 1989 of his application for naturalisation under section 6(1) of the 1981 Act.

The applicant, a citizen of India, came to England in 1972 aged 11. In 1984, he obtained employment with J. P. Morgan Investment Management Ltd, a company incorporated in Delaware, USA, as a researcher and analyst in their London office. He was granted indefinite leave to remain in the

United Kingdom on May 5, 1978. The Home Office decided that in accordance with their interpretation of whether a company was established in the United Kingdom, J. P. Morgan Investment Management Ltd could not be regarded as a company established in the United Kingdom for the purposes of the 1981 Act, as it was registered under the Companies Act 1948 and 1981 as an overseas company with a place of business in the United Kingdom.

Mr Mehta submitted that the requirement in paragraph 1(1)(d)(ii) of the 1981 Act was only fulfilled if the company in question had its principal place of business here. Thus an international company with a principal place of business abroad but with a base here which might employ a thousand people would be excluded.

His Lordship could see no warrant in the statute for excluding employees of companies which could be regarded as being established in several places one of which was the United Kingdom. Mr Mehta wished to suggest that any immigration or nationality purpose which might be served by the restrictive construction for

which he contended. The secretary of state had been too rigid in his approach to qualifications under paragraph 1(1)(d)(ii) of Schedule 1 to the 1981 Act.

The secretary of state had assigned reasons for the refusal of the application although it was a decision which on the face of it was at his discretion: section 44 of the 1981 Act. The reasons revealed a misconstruction of the statute.

His Lordship did not think that he was restrained from quashing and pointing out a misconstruction so that the secretary of state did not err in the same manner in future cases: *Anisimic Ltd v Foreign Compensation Commission* [1969] 2 AC 147.

It would be a great pity, to put it no higher, if the courts were prohibited from pointing out an error in the construction of a statute which that court had pointed out in a previous case: *Section 44 of the 1981 Act* did not prevent his Lordship from doing so.

Solicitors: Flaggate Fielder, Treasury Solicitor.

Section has executory relevance only

Tootal Clothing Ltd v Guinea Properties Management Ltd
Section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989, which superseded section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, dealt with the circumstances in which a valid or enforceable contract for the sale or other disposition of an interest in land could come into existence.

Accordingly it was of relevance only to executory contracts and not to contracts already completed.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Scott and Mr Justice Boreham) so held on June 4 allowing the appeal of Tootal Clothing Ltd against the judgment of Mr Justice Douglas Brown on July 12, 1991, in the Queen's Bench Division on a preliminary issue that an agreement, described as supplemental to the main agreement between the parties for the grant of a lease,

was subject to section 2 of the 1989 Act.

LORD JUSTICE SCOTT said that the parties having agreed all the terms for the grant of a 25-year lease had duly completed that agreement so that it ceased to be an executory contract and it was

irrelevant whether section 2 rendered it unenforceable. The supplemental agreement was not by itself a contract relating to land but was separate and distinct so that there was no basis by which section 2 could render it unenforceable.

Head as weapon

Regina v Cockram

A head used violently against the face was a nasty weapon, the Court of Appeal (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Auld) held on May 14 when dismissing an appeal by Gary Cockram, aged 23, against sentences totalling 3½ years imprisonment for offences including causing grievous bodily harm with intent, contrary to section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 in respect of which he was

sentenced to two years at Bristol Crown Court by Mr Recorder Nigel Mylne, QC.

MR JUSTICE BOREHAM said that the appellant head-buted a youth named Charles Boyce in the face as a result of which he lost three front teeth from the lower jaw and was permanently disfigured.

As the Lord Chief Justice had stated during submissions on appeal, a head used violently against the face was a nasty weapon.

The sentences were not open to criticism.

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BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (75804) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (42322595)
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series (6503798)
9.30 Today's Country. A new series in which the American chef Jacques Pepin prepares healthy three-course meals (91069)
10.00 News. regional news and weather (6351359)
10.05 Children's BBC Playdays (4573492) 10.25 Stoppit and Tidypup (6354446) 10.35 Cartoons. Foghorn Leghorn double bill (7783175) 10.50 News, regional news and weather (2396363)
10.55 Cricket: First Test - England v Pakistan. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the final day's play from Edgbaston (s) (9891953)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (60159972)
12.05 Cricket: First Test - England v Pakistan. Play continues (s) (6759798) 12.55 Regional news and weather (60159972)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) (31750)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (59922595)
1.50 Cricket: First Test - England v Pakistan. Continued live coverage of the final day's play (s) (59922595)
2.15 Knots Landing. Dallas spin-off (3522311)
3.25 Bazaar. Doug Smillie constructs a barbecue, and Claire Rayner discusses teenage sex (3158601)
3.50 Children's BBC. Bodger and Badger (s) (2518663) 4.05 Gravedale High. Spoof horror cartoon (s) (4562576) 4.30 Patrick Paraz. Seventh of a 12-part espionage drama. (Ceefax) (4629311)
4.55 Newsworld (8714934) 5.05 Blue Peter (7294819)
5.35 Neighbours (s). (Ceefax) (s) (576156). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax). Weather (663)
6.30 Regional news magazines (243). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (s). (Ceefax)
7.00 Wogan. Diana Ross sings her new single "One Shining Moment" (s) (9601)
7.30 Classic Adventure: Recording the Action. How television camera crews have dangled off ice cliffs, leapt from aeroplanes and braved swirling rapids to find the best shot. (Ceefax) (427)
8.00 Television's Greatest Hits. Philip Schofield presents the most-watched programmes of 1982. American memories from Jean Alexander of Coronation Street and Val Doonican. (Ceefax) (s) (5021)
8.30 'Allo 'Allo. René (Gordon Kaye) and company disguise themselves as Spanish dancers in yet another re-run of the French resistance farce. (Ceefax) (4156)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) (4750). Regional news and weather
9.30 Panorama. John Ware reports on the army undercover agent Brian Nelson, who infiltrated loyalist gangs assassinating IRA suspects. Nelson's case, which came to court in February, has revived the Northern Ireland shoot-to-kill debate (893595)



Fateful assault: Colin Firth as the Falklands hero (10.20pm)

10.20 Tumbledown
● CHOICE: One of the finest television dramas of the 1980s is repeated 18th years after the Falklands war. Written by Charles Wood and based on the story of Lt Robert Lawrence, Tumbledown attracted awards and controversy in roughly equal measure. Lawrence was a young Scots Guard who led his platoon in the assault on Mount Tumbledown and was horribly wounded hours before the Argentinian surrender. Taking as its framework the injury and Lawrence's attempt to rebuild his life, Tumbledown explores the human cost of war, the nature of heroism and how a nation treats war's victims. Lawrence was awarded the military cross but his paralysed body was kept out of sight during the official thanksgiving service. He is superbly played, with an arrogance giving way to anger and disillusion, by Colin Firth (Ceefax) (430311) (14719). Northern Ireland: Greenfingers (4591002); 12.40 Cricket: First Test (8170606)
12.45 Weather (1515915)

BBC2

6.45-7.10 Open University: The Midlands Enlightenment (9471953)
8.00 Breakfast News (1414798) 8.15 Westminster (1497021)
8.30 Under Sail. A holiday cruise around the Hebrides in the 80ft sailing trawler, Lorne Leader, captained by Donald Hind (s) (3076446)
8.50 A Week to Remember. Vintage newsreels from 1952 (4045021)
9.00 Daytime on 2. Larnach House (8232205) 9.15 Ghostwriter (415595)
9.45 Storytime. (4059886) 10.00 Mathewrorks (4573663) 10.18 Music Time (s) (4592798) 10.40 Square One (9307576) 11.00 Zip Zag (6263663) 11.20 Teaching Today (9936249) 11.50 Watch (793408) 12.05 Japanese Language and People (5569514) 12.35 Lifeschool (3104021) 1.00 The Geography Programme (64250021)
1.20 Fingerprint (s) (72287205) 1.35 Crystal Tipps and Alastair (s) (62458682) 1.40 Landmarks (59944717)
2.00 News and weather followed by Storytime (s) (18234589)
2.15 Cricket: First Test - England v Pakistan. Live coverage from Edgbaston of the afternoon's play on the final day (s) (67823514)
2.30 News. 3.00 News. 3.30 News. 4.00 News. 4.30 News. 5.00 News and weather, regional news and weather
6.30 Def 1: Dance Energy House Party. Norm's guests include Innocence and Altern 8 and there is a glimpse of Lisa Stansfield on the road (s) (821866) 7.05 Yearbook Love Stories. Documentary series about life in an American high school (257330)
7.30 Tax Avery. Classic cartoons (795791)

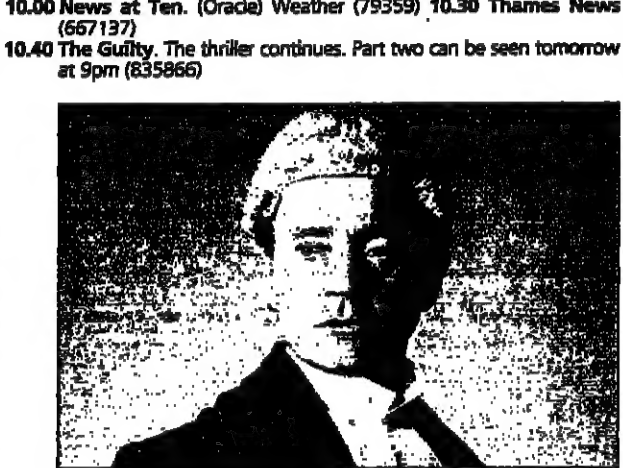


Managing director to dole queue: Philip Walker (7.40pm)

7.40 Open Space: Finished at 40. A film by Benicia and Philip Walker of the Campaign Against Age Discrimination. In Employment which they founded after Philip lost his job. The transition from managing director to dole queue was so great that he attempted suicide. Among their supporters is Robert Smith, who was made redundant by British Aerospace when he was only 43 and is still without a job two years and more than 500 applications later. (Ceefax) (971408)
8.10 Horizon: A Question of Sport
● CHOICE: With the Barcelona Olympics looming, television seems bent on showing what a dirty business the games have become. This latest salvo is about a drugs scandal in the former east Germany. Although the authorities did their best to shred the evidence, a fearless professor from west Germany has penetrated the secret archives and come up with the story of State Plan 14.25, an official scheme for producing Olympic champions by giving athletes anabolic steroids. The system worked well enough to beat the Olympic dope tests, indeed the man behind it served on the medical commissions of the International Olympic Committee. The irony is that drugs did not always enhance performance. A swimmer who was made to take steroids says they slowed him up, turning a possible gold medal into a bronze. (Ceefax) (s) (477359)
9.00 Film: Outrage! (1986). Satisfyingly crafted courtroom drama with Robert Preston (in his last screen role) taking revenge on the man who raped, robbed and killed his daughter after he is released through a legal loophole. Solid support from Burgess Meredith, Sean Bridges and Anthony Newley. Directed by Walter Grauman (3021)
10.30 Newsworld with Francine Stock and Jeremy Paxman (928507)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (783224)
11.55 Weather (855750)
12.00 Open University: The Founding of the Royal Society (15002). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

6.00 TV-am. (65392)
9.25 Cross Wits. Tom O'Connor hosts the crossword quiz (6592682)
9.55 Thames News. (1225779)
10.00 Out of This World. Comedy about an alien teenager (s) (35088)
10.30 This Morning. The daily magazine programme offers help for new mothers and presents viewers' holiday videos (48485224) Including at: 10.55 ITN News headlines, and at 11.55 Thames News
12.10 Rosie and Jim. Puppet fun (s) (7875475)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News. (Oracle) Weather (6615427) 1.10 Thames News (6214366)
1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (18208311)
1.50 A Country Practice (6677866)
2.20 Thames Help. Jackie Spectre looks at outdoor and country activities (s) (97267198) 3.15 ITN News headlines (9257175) 3.20 Thames News (9254088)
3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian hospital drama (314021)
3.55 Children's ITV: Cartoon Time. Foggy Leghorn (4571224) 4.00 Round the Bend (s) (456101) 4.25 Chip 'n' Dale - Rescue Rangers. Cartoon adventures (2080888) 4.50 How 2. How does a polar bear disguise itself? (s) (4565137)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz (3899458)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News. (Oracle) Weather (721779)
5.55 Thames Help (s) (345476)
6.00 Home and Away (s). (Oracle) (359)
6.30 Thames News (15682)
7.00 Cuedo: Deadly Downy. Una Stubbs, Nick Owen, Eve Pollard and Philip Middlemiss determine who did it, with what, and where, in the final whodunit of the series (1069)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (595)
8.00 Wheel of Fortune. Nicky Campbell and Carol Smillie invite three contestants to take part in the giant game of roulette (5507)
8.30 World in Action: The Lord of the Rings. Andrew Jennings concludes his report on the abuse of power, money and drugs in the modern Olympics. The programme looks at the career of Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, and examines his support for General Franco (9224)
9.00 The Guilty
● CHOICE: Lawyer Steven Vay (Michael Kitchen), hero of this four-hour drama from the team that gave us The Chancer, is what the late Terry-Thomas would have called an absolute shower. He is smug, devious, amoral and hypocritical and that is not the half of it. He also drinks. When the new secretary from chambers invites him for coffee, he rapes her, he rapes her, he rapes her. He is put away for ten years but that would be the end of the series. Instead he is made a judge and opened up to blackmail. The sub-plot involves the lawyer's illegitimate son, just out of prison and determined to find his father. By piling up the coincidences, the writer Simon Burke is able to construct a well-knit thriller that after an unpromising start looks as if it will have a happy ending. Continues after 10pm. (Oracle) (8067)
10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather (79359) 10.30 Thames News (657137)
10.40 The Guilty. The thriller continues. Part two can be seen tomorrow at 9pm (835966)



Rough justice: Michael Kitchen's amoral lawyer (9.00pm)

11.40 Magnum. Tom Selleck plays the Hawaiian-based detective (s) (871525) 12.30am Entertainment UK (s) (62644)
1.30 Sport AM. Golfing highlights from the Irish Open in Killarney, and a roundup of European football (40731)
2.30 Film: D-Day, the Sixth of June (1956). Wartime drama starring Robert Taylor and Richard Todd as rivals for the affections of Dana Wynter. Directed by Henry Koster (49002)
4.30 Casey Kasem's Rock and Roll Goldmine. Soul music of the 1960s, featuring Otis Redding and James Brown (70460)
5.30 ITN Morning News (10557). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily (1931717)
9.25 Schools (8415824)
12.00 Right to Reply (s). (Teletext) (s) (69972)
12.30 Business Daily. City analysis (88595)
1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning series. Today's guest is Tyne Daly of Cagney and Lacey (s) (76750)
2.00 Film: I Confess (1952, b/w). Sombre Alfred Hitchcock thriller set in Quebec. Priest Montgomery Clift is privy to a killer's confession, but is bound to silence and becomes suspected of the murder. With Anne Baxter (909327)
3.45 Frisian Dreams. A musical portrait of Frisian cows (2519392)
4.00 Night Caller. An opportunity to eavesdrop on radio disc jockey Dave Bull's night-time "graveyard shift" on BBC (s) (1224)
4.30 Refram to One. William G. Stewart hosts the fast-paced quiz (s) (408)
5.00 Road to Avonlea: Aunt Hetty's Ordeal. Canadian adventure series starring Sarah Polley (1682)
6.00 The Cosby Show. Comedy series with the Huxtables. Starring Bill Cosby (s). (Teletext) (601)
6.30 The Hendersons Kids. Australian drama series (s) (853)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. (Teletext) Weather (182514)
7.50 Conversation. A personal opinion. John Peel speaks of the painful attempts to come to terms with infertility, which finally succeeded when she decided to adopt. Abused and rejected as a child, and having gone through two abortions, Vicki makes you understand why desperate women snatch babies from prams. Pamela Smith's film covers the subject with frankness and sympathy, emphasising how children can become central to a woman's self-worth. (Teletext) (931)
8.00 Northern Exposure: Whisker I Did for Love. Eccentric comedy-drama series set in Alaska. Maggie (Janine Turner) has a premonition of Joel's (Rob Morrow) death in a plane crash (206205)
10.55 The Dazzling Image. The first of seven programmes featuring the work of new British film and video-makers. Ken Livingstone introduces five short political films with a satirical slant (1624717)
12.00 Talking Liberties. A new seven-part series in which Jonathan Ross talks to leading contemporary thinkers. Tonight he meets the French philosopher Jacques Derrida, guru of the deconstructionist movement (8971101). Ends at 12.45am



Grieving for her lost children: Alice Thomas Ellis (9.00pm)

9.00 Female Parts: A Different Kind of Love
● CHOICE: Motherhood is the theme of this week's Female Parts, but not the sort that goes smoothly. The writer Alice Thomas Ellis reflects on her seven children but speaks most about the two she lost, a baby who died two days after birth and a son, whose death at 19 came after almost a year in a coma. Her memories and feelings are juxtaposed with the experiences of women who have wanted to have children and for various reasons failed. Susan speaks of the painful attempts to come to terms with infertility, which finally succeeded when she decided to adopt. Abused and rejected as a child, and having gone through two abortions, Vicki makes you understand why desperate women snatch babies from prams. Pamela Smith's film covers the subject with frankness and sympathy, emphasising how children can become central to a woman's self-worth. (Teletext) (931)
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SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kar Show (1939888) 8.40 Mini Peppercorn (1855334) 8.55 Lamb Royale: Play-Along. (3246211) 9.30 The 100th Day of School. (3246211) 10.00 Let's Make a Deal (40934) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (77576) 12.00 So Close (12576) 1.00pm E Street (71362) 1.30 Garardo (46885) 2.30 Another World (776378) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (32595) 3.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (433224) 4.00 Facts of Life (3069) 5.30 Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman (3934) 6.00 Love at First Sight (3175) 6.30 E Street (4427) 7.00 The 100th Day of School (3246211) 8.00 The Rhinestone Cowboy: Passionate spits in the second world war (min series 2 of 3) (323259) 10.00 Studs (84203) 10.30 Anything for Money (89535) 11.00 Hill Street Blues (90606) 12.00 Pages from Skyline (18286)



Sarah has Postman Pat at her fingertips

'Two-Way' books, printed for blind readers in braille as well as in ordinary type, are helping Sarah learn to read again. Her friends enjoy it too!

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SKY SPORTS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am Rugby League: Bowlers v GB (59576)
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